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NO. 7731 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1989/JAMADIUL AWWAL 4, 1410 AH 20 PAGES 150 FILLS

Honasan appeals for help against US intervention; government has lost control: Enrile

Last stand in Makati

Cory issues ultimatum; rebels seize hotel

MANILA, Dec 2, (Agencies): Mutineers seized a luxury hotel today and battled government forces with tanks and mortars despite claims that their bid to topple President Corazon Aquino had been crushed.

The fighting came two days after rebellious soldiers launched the sixth attempt to topple Aquino, the strongest since she took power in the 1986 uprising against the late President Ferdinand Marcos.

At least 16 people were killed and about 100 others wounded in today's fighting, which spread to the financial district of Makati, where many foreign businessmen and diplomats live.

According to the Red Cross, the unofficial death toll is 42, with more than 200 wounded.

A statement issued today in the name of renegade Lieut Col Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan denounced

Aquino for requesting US air support during the coup attempt. He called on the public to support mutineers for "the attainment of a genuine Filipino government."

Late today, rebels firing from a speeding car killed one policeman and wounded 14 others, including a lieutenant colonel, as they were preparing to retake the intercontinental hotel, seized by the mutineers earlier in the day.

Also today, three gunmen fired at the Makati home of Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus, but he was not there.

In the working-class district of Navotas, gunmen in a passenger jeep police believe may have been communists fired at a capital command station, killing 14 soldiers and a civilian, and fleeing with the victims' pistols.



Aquino addresses a news conference. (Reuter wirephoto)

Cory urged to be iron fisted

Filipinos worried

By Fathima Ahmed Arab Times staff

THE Philippines Senate has urged Filipinos to unite and rally behind the country's government to preserve freedom and democracy. The Senate, in a resolution, also appealed to the army to put down the rebellion.

The resolution, No. CIR 343/89, passed on Dec 1, was circulated to all Philippines embassies and consulates and was obtained by the Arab Times from the embassy in Kuwait.

It expresses "full and unqualified allegiance, fidelity and support" to the government, led by President Corazon C. Aquino.

Expressing grave concern over the attempted coup by renegade officers, the resolution called on the Filipinos to "unite and rally behind the constitution and the government."

It warns: "The turnover of the government by the military, or segment thereof, will not only be destructive of the ideals of democracy, but will negate the political and economic gains so far achieved, and cause terrible suffering and misery ... and renders impossible the attainment of their dreams for a better life."

Calling on the armed forces to perform their duty, it urges them "as protectors of the state and the people" to put down the rebellion, described by the Senate as "the latest attempt to destabilise the government." It strongly condemned the "violence, destruction, damage and deaths ensuing in its wake."

There are between 30,000 and 40,000 Filipinos in Kuwait. A majority, in a random opinion poll, expressed concern over the coup attempt and hoped for stability in their country. Several Filipinos urged their government to safeguard lives.

Said one Filipino nurse: "I am worried about my family back home. I have my son there."

Another, Sonny Mariano, described the attempted coup as an "unfortunate incident." He said the prospects of economic recovery look "more dim" now.

The Philippines was recently opened to foreign investors. (Continued on Page 11, Col. 1)

F-5s did nothing: US agent

WASHINGTON, (UPI): Philippine F-5 fighters did nothing as rebel-controlled planes and helicopters strafed and bombed the presidential palace during a coup attempt in Manila, a US intelligence official said Friday.

Because of this, US intelligence officials at first thought the military rebels also controlled the country's nine F-5s and only later learned the government was still in charge of the high-tech fighter-bombers.

Rear Admiral Ted Shearer of the Defence Intelligence Agency said the rebels controlled all of the country's 14 T-28 attack planes and about 20 attack helicopters at the beginning of the coup against President Corazon Aquino.

"We had reports of two air attacks conducted against the presidential palace, both by T-28s and attack helicopters," Shearer said.

"What we didn't understand early on," he said, "was that in the air attacks at the palace, we had helicopters coming in very low and strafing. We had apparently T-28s stacked a little bit higher dropping bombs and apparently, we've been told, firing rockets."

Earlier today, government jets and helicopter gunships pounded rebel positions near armed forces headquarters at Camp Aguinaldo. Rebels fired back with tanks, mortars and machine-guns.

In one attack, air force jets accidentally strafed 2,000 pro-government troopers, killing six of them and wounding 20 others.

Fighting persisted despite government claims that it had crushed the coup attempt, which began on Friday when mutineers seized Villamor air base, the government television station and other strongpoints.

The rebels withdrew from most places after US warplanes began flying air cover for government troops at Aquino's request.

But military Chief of Staff Gen. Renato de Villa said rebels still controlled parts of Manila and the Macian air base in Cebu, south of Manila.

Manila's international airport remained closed for a second day, and all domestic flights from the capital were cancelled.

Opposition Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, who was fired as defence minister after a failed coup in 1986, said the situation showed the government had lost control of most of its 160,000-member military.

Aquino, flanked by her cabinet ministers in a nationally televised news conference today, said that most of the rebels had either surrendered or been driven from their strongholds and predicted the coup attempt would be over by the end of the day.

The President, who has crushed six other coup attempts, said her forces would hunt down and "bring to justice" the rebels and their supporters, including politicians and civilians.

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French MPs back Aoun

BEIRUT, Dec 2, (Agencies): Eight French lawmakers arrived in Lebanon today to declare support for Christian Gen. Michel Aoun against a feared Syrian attack to dislodge him from the presidential palace east of Beirut.

The right-wing parliamentarians did not make any statements when they arrived at the shell-wrecked palace in suburban Baabda.

They held a brief meeting with Aoun, then joined a dance with some of the thousands of Christian youths who gathered in the pine woods around the palace since Tuesday to raise the ante if Syria decides to attack Aoun.

Before leaving Paris, a statement said the eight were heading to Lebanon to "assure a permanent French elected presence by the side of the Lebanese resistance."

Earlier this week 33 right-wing French Parliament members visited the Christian enclave for 24 hours to declare support for Aoun.

The Muslim Voice of the Nation radio said the final decision on how to evict Aoun from the palace would be taken next week.

It said Hirawi agreed to delay the move in an effort to prevent bloodshed.

"But if Aoun refuses to end his mutiny peacefully, then the proper decision will be taken," the radio said.

British Ambassador John Allan Ramsey also counselled a "solution through peaceful means."

Ramsey made the brief remark after a 30-minute meeting with Hirawi at the latter's residence in a Lebanese Army barracks in the eastern Bekaa Valley.

An Nahar, an independent daily, quoted Hirawi as saying an assault to dislodge Aoun from the presidential palace has been delayed at the request of a "number of Arab and foreign states" that he did not identify.

But at a news conference on Thursday, Hirawi said, "the day of judgement is very near."

A government source said France was mediating in the conflict between Aoun and Hirawi by proposing to freeze certain controversial clauses in the Taif accord. He would not specify which clauses nor indicate how freezing them might help.

The foreign ministers of Algeria, Morocco and Saudi Arabia — who drafted the peace plan — will meet in Riyadh, tomorrow, to discuss the situation in Lebanon, the Saudi Press Agency reported.

Prime Minister Salim Hoss, who heads a national reconciliation government appointed by Hirawi a week ago, moved to further isolate Aoun by informing foreign ambassadors that dealing with him was unacceptable.

New premier sworn in: Devi Lal deputy PM



Rajiv (left) shakes hands with V.P. Singh (right) after Singh was sworn in as the new prime minister, as President R. Venkataraman stands watching. (Reuter wirephoto)

Singh tackles prices

Punjab elections ordered: Rajiv's last act

NEW DELHI, Dec 2, (Agencies): Vishwanath Pratap Singh, the leader of the opposition coalition that ousted Rajiv Gandhi from power with promises of a honest government was sworn in today as prime minister of India.

For only the second time in the history of modern India, the country won't be led by the Congress Party.

"I will do my duty," Singh told reporters after the ceremony. "My government will be a government of the people."

Devi Lal, Singh's 75-year-old colleague in the National Front coalition, was named deputy prime minister and also took the oath of allegiance to the country's constitution.

The 58-year-old Singh must now complete his cabinet and win a vote of confidence from the majority of the 525 Members of Parliament's policy-making lower house.

President Ramaswamy Venkataraman, who administered the oath of office at the Presidential Palace, has given Singh 30 days to prove his support in Parliament.

Singh, wearing a black hat and knee-length gray coat, smiled as the crowd burst into applause in an ornate chamber of the palace.

Rajiv, now consigned to the role of opposition leader, was one of the first to offer Singh congratulations after the 10-minute ceremony. Singh served in Rajiv's cabinet before resigning from the Congress Party.

"I wish him well," Rajiv said later. "I hope he completes his five-year term."

Singh's first day at the office as prime minister was quiet. About three hours after being sworn in, he drove to the prime minister's office in South Block, where he presided over a meeting of senior secretaries to the government to discuss the price situation in the country. Singh had promised to accord top priority to the task of tackling the rising prices of essential commodities.

Those who attended the meeting included principal secretary to prime minister, B.G. Deshmukh, Finance Secretary Gopi Arora, Food Secretary B.B. Mahajan, Civil Supplies Secretary N. Ragunathan.

(Continued on Page 2)

Airlines cancel Manila flights

By Fathima Ahmed Arab Times staff

THOUSANDS of Filipinos in Kuwait, waiting to go home for Christmas, have been forced to put off plans due to the unstable condition in Manila.

At the time of going to press, all four airlines, operating flights from Kuwait and via Dubai, had cancelled their flights.

Four airlines — KAC, Philippines Airways, Malaysian Airways and Gulf Air — altogether operate nine-flights from Kuwait to Manila. Malaysian Airlines goes via Dubai and Kuala Lumpur to Manila and Gulf Air flies via Bahrain.

Most passengers are adopting a wait and see attitude. "Several friends have asked me to cancel my plans to travel. I want to go. Let's wait and see what happens," said one distraught Filipino.

"I was to fly on Thursday. Now I don't know if I would be able to," said Filipino nurse Fatima. She wanted to join her son for her annual vacation.

Airlines offices have been deluged with calls by anxious passengers. "The Filipinos are a patient people; they are putting up with the cancellations," said Tareq, an official of the Philippines Airways.

"We have cancelled or postponed flights; when they will resume is anybody's guess," said another airline executive.

All KAC flights to Manila are fully booked with a long waiting list until December.

Passengers booked on Saturday's flight were turned back at Kuwait airport.

All Filipinos making travel plans are advised to check with their travel agent or airline before going to the airport.

Med summit gets sea sick

VALLETTA, Dec 2, (Reuter): A raging storm threw the superpowers' seaborne summit into chaos today, forcing US President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to change venue for one set of talks and cancel a second round.

Their encounter was promptly dubbed "the seasick summit."

A gale lashed the little Mediterranean island of Malta all day long, obliging the two leaders to hold their first summit encounter aboard the Soviet liner Maxim Gorky, moored in a sheltered bay, instead of the Soviet missile cruiser Slava.

After Bush returned to the US cruiser Belknap, he was marooned by the tempest and White House officials announced the two leaders had dropped plans for a second round of talks as well as a joint dinner aboard the Gorky.

Despite the raging elements outside, described by some Maltese as the island's worst storm for decades, both US and Soviet spokesmen were at pains to term the first meeting of more than five hours productive and encouraging.

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said: "The talks are going very well. The leaders talked about everything."

Asked if Bush and Gorbachev had talked about the cold war, Gerasimov replied: "The cold war is over."

The two leaders sat down in a cramped saloon on the berthed Soviet cruise liner for their first meeting since Bush entered the White House in January.

Winds of more than 50 miles (80 km) an hour prevented Bush making a 500-yard (metre) trip on a motor launch to the Soviet cruiser Slava which had been the venue for the meeting in Malta's Marsaxlokk bay.

Earlier Report Page 7



Bush shakes hands with Gorbachev. (Reuter wirephoto)

Armenia votes to annex Karabakh

MOSCOW, Dec 2, (AP): The Armenian republic legislature has voted to annex the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region in response to the national parliament's vote giving some control back to neighbouring Azerbaijan, an activist said today.

The move is unlikely to be recognised by Moscow and may add to tension between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

ARAB TIMES Grand Bingo

Tony Alick has won the Four Corners prize. He will receive KD25. Game No. 74 continues for the Top Line, First, Second and Third Full House prizes.

Weather

CLOUDY to partly cloudy weather and a chance for rain with moderate south-easterly wind.

State of Sea: Moderate

High water: 13 am, 4.13 pm

Low water: 9.00 am, 8.56 pm

Sunrise: 6.26 am

Sunset: 4.49 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 20°C 68°F

Ahmed: 24°C 75°F

Palestine: 23°C 73°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 17°C 63°F

Ahmed: 16°C 61°F

Palestine: 15°C 59°F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 22°C 72°F

Ahmed: 21°C 70°F

Palestine: 21°C 70°F

Minimum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 64 per cent

Ahmed: 66 per cent

Palestine: 68 per cent

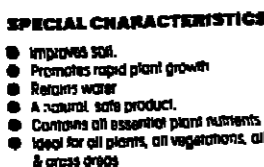
Premier plans to go to the Golden Temple

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Ishaq Khan regrets lawlessness and democracy of confrontation

The Maoists are believed to have killed a dozen people in rural areas last month. The Maoists are estimated to number over 3,000.

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COLOMBO, Dec 2, (Kunzi)
Sri Lankan President Ran-

high-ranking government officials have been abducted by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

[illegible]

PEOPLE AND PLACES

CHICAGO: Chicago municipal officials have given preliminary approval for a 125-story building that would be 15 floors higher than the Sears Tower, the world's tallest building.

The endorsement from the city planning commission leaves only a vote by the city council before the project could begin, the developers said.

The 1,950-foot (595-metre) building would also be the world's tallest self-supporting structure, a title currently held by the 1,821-foot (555-metre) CN Tower in Toronto.

Developers Lee Miglia and Joseph J. E. S. Bitter said the needle-like tower would cost up to \$400 million to build, and that much of the financing has already been lined up. (Reuters)

UNIVERSAL CITY, California: A thrill ride through a laser-filled wilderness scene and into outer space aboard a bicycle with E.T. The Extraterrestrial are part of a planned \$3-billion MCA Inc. theme park near London.

The park, described in a planning application submitted to British authorities Monday, is similar to another MCA amusement park complex recently proposed for site outside Paris.

MCA will develop only one of the European sites. Officials hope to open the new park in 1994.

The entertainment company that operates the famed Universal Studios tour here plans to spend \$1 billion to build the park and a hotel, with additional development later to expand and erect a hotel.

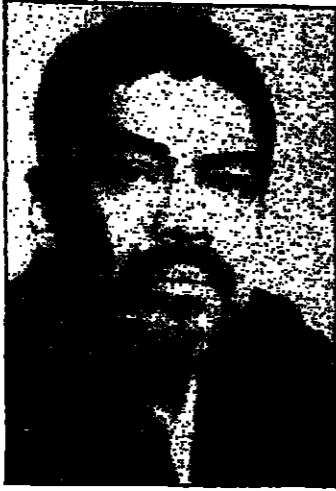
MCA also is developing studio theme parks in Florida and Japan. (AP)

SAN DIEGO: An elephant which recently underwent a historic Caesarian section was destroyed Friday night when veterinarians determined a raging infection was incurable, said officials at the San Diego Wild Animal Park.

Veterinary surgeons decided to operate again on Jess, a 19-year-old Asian elephant, because she had been eaten since Sunday and had not been responding to painkillers and antibiotics, park spokesman Tom Hanson said.

"Once inside the abdomen we found severe infection of the abdominal wall," Hanson said.

The uterus had ruptured, not at the suture point (from the Caesarian), but rather at a spot apparently weakened by the infection found in the womb during the C-section. (UPI)



Choreographer dies

Alvin Ailey, a choreographer and founder of one of the foremost modern dance companies in the world, died on Friday of a blood disease, a spokeswoman for his company said. He was 58.

The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, founded in 1958, has been a showcase for innovative dance.

Ailey had been suffering from blood dyscrasia for about a year. The 79 ballets he choreographed have joined the repertory of dance companies around the world.

TORONTO: Police officer Edward Brennan caught the driver of a stolen car and earned a special commendation for good police work — and a traffic ticket for failing to halt at a stop sign during the high-speed chase.

His lawyer Ronald Brady, said on Friday: "What we have got is a situation where the law requires one thing but the practical consequences of it are frightening. Police officers will stop at signs while people raising a bank can speed off."

A Niagara Falls provincial court replaced Brennan's \$45 fine with probation but the Ontario supreme court turned down his appeal against conviction. (Reuters)

MONACO: A painting by 18th-century Venetian painter Francesco Guardi was sold for \$5 million (francs \$14 million) at an auction on Friday night.

Sotheby's auctioneer Simon de Pury told reporters it was a world record for a Guardi painting and the second highest price paid for an "old master."

He did not name the buyer or say

Ex-boxer lends name to new cologne

Smell like... Muhammad Ali

MONTGOMERY, Alabama, Dec 2. (AP): Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee, and smell like... Muhammad Ali.

The former heavyweight champion, now on a promotional shuffle for Muhammad Ali Colognes, took jobs at Calvin Klein and Liz Taylor yesterday and explained why Joe Frazier could never put his name on perfume.

"It wouldn't smell good," Ali said. The 47-year-old Ali, grinning slyly and joking with reporters at a news conference in a Montgomery Hotel, said he doesn't mind going extra rounds with fans who line up to buy the product and get his autograph. "I'm making my comeback," he said.

Asked if he would put his name on other products,

he said he would not do anything that would be contrary to his image and beliefs, such as endorsing underwear.

Ali was quick with his comebacks to reporters' questions, sprayed the cologne on himself and several of the newsmen, performed a disappearing handkerchief magic trick, and scowled and faked punches like the young champ once did in the ring.

But Ali, who has suffered from health problems since he retired from boxing, appeared sluggish physically, with little bounce as he moved about. His voice was almost a whisper, and there was often a tremor to his arms when he otherwise sat virtually motionless on a sofa.

Fonda sued for divorce

LOS ANGELES, Dec 2. (Reuters): Actress Jane Fonda was sued for a divorce by Tom Hayden, a California State Congressman, yesterday and a spokesman said they had reached a private settlement on dividing their multi-million-dollar property.

"Tom and Jane wish each other well," the family spokesman, Stephen Rivers, said.

Fonda, 51 and Hayden, 49, announced the beginning of the end of one of the best-known political marriages last February when they said they had separated on a trial basis after 15 years of marriage.

Hayden filed yesterday for a divorce in the Los

Angeles superior court on the grounds of irreconcilable differences, all that is needed under California law. The couple will share joint custody of their son Troy.

Hayden, a member of the militant "Chicago Seven" group that opposed the Vietnam war, and Fonda, a political activist still remembered for a controversial trip she made to North Vietnam during the war, met on the stage of an anti-war rally.

Fonda, daughter of late Henry Fonda, won Oscars for her films "Kluge" and "Coming Home." Hayden is serving his fourth term as a member of the California legislature.

what country he came from. The oil painting depicts a view of the Giudecca Canal in Venice.

Two drapery studies by Leonardo da Vinci were sold for 32 million francs (\$5.2 million) and 28 million francs (\$4.5 million) to American Barbara Plescia Johnson. (Reuters)

LONDON: Pablo Picasso's "Weeping Woman," a black and white print made in 1937, was placed on public display in London on Friday by a seller seeking \$1 million.

"We think it is the most expensive print in the world but it is worth it. If we don't sell it now we will next year, when it will seem cheap because it is very rare and prices are rising," said Lena Mercer, assistant to Canadian print dealer Dr. Frederick Mulder, who has worked in London for 20 years.

Mulder will only say the "Weeping Woman" was bought privately.

Thursday's preview took place as Picasso's painting "Pierrette's Wedding" (Les Noces de Pierrette) was auctioned in Paris to a Japanese

buyer for 300 million francs (\$48.9 million), the most ever paid for a work by the Spanish artist who died in 1973. (AP)

WASHINGTON: The US Food and Drug Administration announced Friday that Biocraft Laboratories is voluntarily recalling a malaria drug — goldline chloroquine phosphate 250 milligramme tablets.

The FDA said bottles of 100 tablets of the drug — from lot number 14311 and embossed with "BL" on one side of the tablet and "54" on the other side — actually contain an animal diuretic or water pill.

About 1,000 bottles of the product may still be on drug store shelves or dispensed to patients, the FDA said. "Bottles containing the wrong drug have been found in California, Utah, Arizona and Oregon."

The correct marking for chloroquine phosphate tablets, made by the Elmwood Park, New Jersey, company, is "BL" on one side and "54" on the other side, the government agency said. (UPI)

PARKMAN, Maine: Fire-fighters confronted a sweet disaster when they arrived at a burning house to find a half-tonne of spilled honey inside.

"The sweetest fire I've ever been to," Michael Dexter, the fire chief in neighbouring Guilford, said Thursday.

The man who lived in the house processed honey, and about 2,000 pounds (900 kilograms) of it was stored inside when the blaze erupted Wednesday in a wood box next to a stove.

The heat melted the plastic pails in which the honey was stored, and Dexter said it was 3 inches (7-1/2 centimetres) deep in some places by the time fire-fighters arrived.

When the first hose crew turned on the water, the force of the stream sent the firefighters sliding back several feet across the gooey surface, Dexter said.

The chief said about 1,000 pounds (450 kilograms) of honey was lost in the fire. No one was injured, and damage to the house was primarily from smoke and water, he said. (AP)



Lord Aldington outside the high court in London Nov 30 where the libel trial was heard. (Reuters wirephoto)

\$2.3m libel award

Criticism renewed of jury rights

LONDON, Dec 2. (AP): A case at the high court in London has set a new record for British libel damages: £1.5 million (\$2.3 million).

The award Thursday against historian Count Nikolai Tolstoy, a descendant of Russian novelist Leo Tolstoy, and businessman Nigel Watts, renewed calls to strip British libel juries of their exclusive right to decide the amount of damages.

The award, which brought gasps from spectators, is three times higher than the previous British libel record of £500,000 pounds (\$785,000) to novelist and ex-politician Jeffrey Archer in 1987 against the Star. The London newspaper had alleged Archer had a sexual liaison with a prostitute.

In addition to the damages Tolstoy and Watts must share for calling former Conservative Party deputy chairman Lord Aldington, 75, a war criminal, they must pay his legal cost, estimated by the Times of London at £1.4 million (\$2.1 million).

The London tabloid the Daily Mirror commen-

ted yesterday: "The law's ... gone loony ... Lord is awarded £1,500,000 for a slur hardly anyone noticed."

The Times in an editorial yesterday said: "The award ... is so manifestly extravagant that it has brought the law into disrepute."

British libel juries have escalated damages awards in recent years, reportedly largely as a result of public dislike of the nation's intrusive, sensationalist tabloid press.

At issue during the 41-day hearing was an accusation contained in 10,000 copies of a pamphlet written by Tolstoy and circulated by Watts in the spring of 1987.

The pamphlet was sent to legislators and the news media among others. Aldington is former chairman of the Sun Alliance Insurance Company. Watts at the time was campaigning on behalf of his sister over an insurance claim the company refused to pay.

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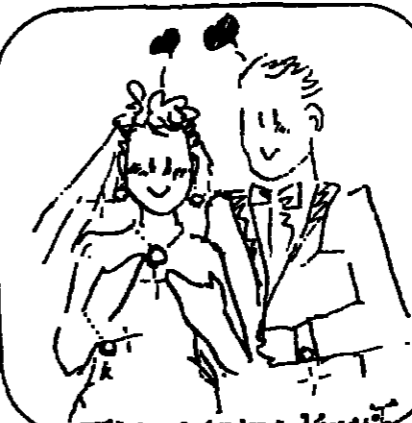
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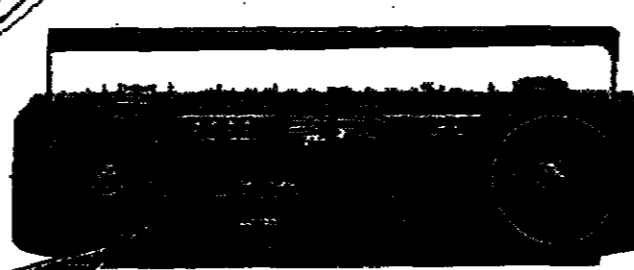


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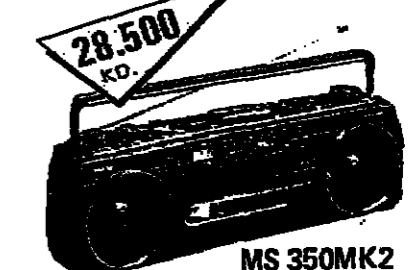
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Salvador rebels fire Sams

Fighting flares



All ready for combat

A Salvadoran soldier sprays the street with M-16 rifle in Soyapango, El Salvador, as government forces advanced on FMLN guerrilla positions. Graffiti on wall reads: "Dialogue." (Reuters wirephoto)

Extraditables declare truce

Poll on extradition

BOGOTA, Dec 2, (AP): A political leader said last night that the country's cocaine traffickers have declared a "unilateral ceasefire" in their terror campaign to allow a referendum on the issue of extraditing drug suspects to the United States.

Norberto Morales Ballesteros, president of the House of Representatives, said the drug lords wanted "to permit the Congress to call a referendum of the Colombian people to abolish the extradition of Colombians to the United States."

Earlier a congressional committee ignored government appeals and approved a bill to have voters decide if suspected drug traffickers should be extradited to the United States for prosecution.

If adopted by Congress and signed by President Virgilio Barco, the bill would provide for a referendum to determine if the extradition of Colombian drug suspects should continue.

Morales Ballesteros told the television news programme, "24 Hours" that a spokesman for the Extraditables, a terrorist cocaine cartel, communicated the announcement to him.

He said the traffickers "believe that the Congress has the full ability to call the people to a plebiscite in order to eliminate the extradition" of drug trafficking suspects.

The issue of a referendum triggered an immediate political uproar.

Telling the committee members not to make themselves "accomplices of drug traffickers," Interior Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds said yesterday that approval of the measure would increase drug-related violence.

Drug-linked terror bombings and assassinations have killed 39 people and injured 238 others since late August, when Barco's government launched an unprecedented anti-drug offensive.

The Barco administration has sent nine suspected traffickers to the United States since it re-instituted extradition on Aug 18 as part of the drug crackdown begun after a leading presidential candidate was assassinated.

Lemos Simmonds called the proposed bill "monstrous" and "shameful." He said a referendum would lead to a national bloodbath, predicting drug traffickers would step up violence to intimidate citizens into rejecting extradition.

SAN SALVADOR, Dec 2, (AP): Army troops and leftist rebels battled in two-poor neighbourhoods yesterday, and fighting flared in scattered areas to the north and south of the capital, the military said.

The armed forces press office said there had been fighting overnight in the working-class neighbourhoods of Ciudad Delgado and Soyapango. Rebels remained in Ciudad Delgado but withdrew from Soyapango, it said.

Both neighbourhoods were major combat zones in the early days of the three-week-old offensive by the leftist Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front. The fighting has left thousands of poor and working-class residents homeless.

President Alfredo Cristiani said leftist rebels had begun using advanced Soviet-made anti-aircraft missiles, a development experts say could change the course of the war.

Cristiani suspended relations with Managua last week, having alleged that Sam-7 missile shipments had been sent from Soviet-backed Nicaragua to the rebels.

"We have information... that the FMLN has so far used two Sam-7s," Cristiani told a news conference. "Both missed their targets."

Cristiani said the rebels had fired at A-37 ground attack fighters near the town of Zacatecoluca.

Salvador's US-backed rightist government accused leftist Nicaragua of supplying the missiles and suspended relations. The United States filed a formal protest with the Soviet Union, which arms Nicaragua, and the issue is on the agenda for the summit this weekend off the coast of Malta.

In Tonacatepeque, 10 miles (16 kms) north of San Salvador, one soldier and one guerrilla were reported wounded in fighting.

Residents of Escalon, the capital's most exclusive neighbourhood, began repairing houses pocked with bullet holes when guerrillas took over about 40 homes in the zone and another exclusive neighbourhood on Wednesday. Other residents, fearing more fighting, closed their homes and left for the homes of relatives or went abroad.

American citizens were evacuated from the area during a rebel-declared ceasefire on Thursday. More than 200 embassy dependents and private citizens left El Salvador on a charter flight arranged by the US embassy.

Soldiers from El Salvador's toughest battalions patrolled the streets of Escalon and surrounding neighbourhoods to fend off further rebel attacks. The streets were littered with spent cartridges, burned-out luxury cars and downed power lines.

Meanwhile, the armed forces warned journalists to be "objective" in their reporting on the war and searched the homes of several journalists.

"Some agencies greatly distort or exaggerate the news they send to diverse countries of the world," said a communiqué from the armed forces press committee, Coprefa.

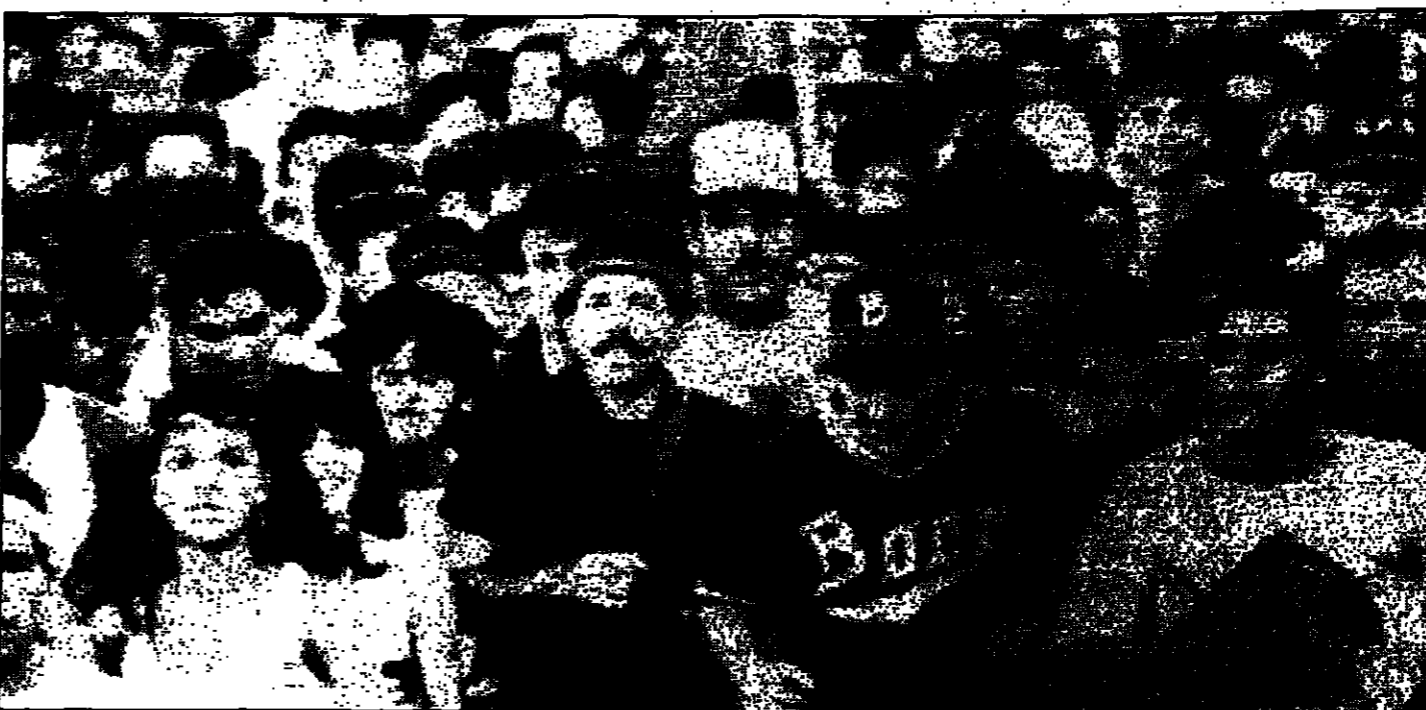
A freelance photographer working for the French news agency Agence France Presse was killed yesterday while covering fighting in San Salvador.

Eyewitnesses said that Eloy Guevara, a 26-year-old Salvadoran, was hit by automatic weapons fire in the embattled San Salvador suburb of Soyapango.

Guerrillas in El Salvador have a potent new weapon in surface-to-air missiles, and the Salvadoran military will be forced to change tactics now that it no longer has free rein in the skies, US military officers say.

El Salvador's ambassador to the United States said the murders of six Jesuit priests is a "black page" in his country's history, and that an independent investigation will expose the killers.

Ambassador Miguel Salaverria said his government has asked for the help of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation and police investigative agencies in Britain, Canada, and Spain to identify the killers of the six priests, their housekeeper and her daughter last month in San Salvador.



Nicaragua refuses

The government said it will not allow into Nicaragua any members of a US election observer team named by US President George Bush because of Washington's financial aid to an opposition candidate.

Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto said the Nicaraguan government has invited observers from the United Nations, the Organisation of American States (OAS) and the other international observers, including former president Jimmy Carter, to witness activities leading up to the Feb 25

national elections. D'Escoto said members of these organisations, which have offices in Managua, "are experienced electoral observers, their honesty is unquestionable and they are absolutely impartial."

"Unfortunately, the same cannot be (said) of President Bush, or... any commission designated by him to observe the elections in Nicaragua," he said in a statement.

"Nicaragua, therefore, will grant neither observer credentials nor visas to members of Bush's

presidential commission." The US Congress and the Bush administration have approved \$9 million in contributions to the presidential campaign of Nicaraguan opposition candidate Violeta Chamorro of the National Opposition Union, or UNO.

Earlier yesterday in Washington, four members of Congress who had planned to visit Nicaragua over the weekend as part of the US observer team, said they received a letter from D'Escoto denying them entry visas. (Reuters wirephoto).

Vote rigging in Taiwan through 'silver bullets'

Opposition supporters surround govt offices

TAIPEI, Dec 2, (AP): Tens of thousands of angry opposition supporters surrounded government office buildings in several cities early today after allegations of ballot-rigging marred Taiwan's first multi-party election.

However, Taiwan's feisty opposition party was putting on a strong showing, garnering 35 per cent of the vote, according to incomplete election results.

An opposition leader said he had protested to the Ministry of Interior about alleged vote-rigging by the ruling nationalist party.

"If the nationalists want a riot, we can do it," warned Tsai Shi-Yuan,

deputy secretary-general of the opposition Democratic Progressive Party.

About 30,000 screaming opposition supporters flocked to government offices in the central city of Nantou. More than 4,000 riot police blocked their path into the building, an opposition official said.

In Tainan in the south, 20,000 people massed at county government offices to protest alleged vote-rigging, another opposition official said. Protests also broke out in Taichung, an industrial city in the south.

There were no immediate reports of violence.

The Independence Evening News had reported large-scale distribution of "silver bullets," or bribes, before campaigning ended yesterday.

The newspaper said "the ballot price went up as the election approached."

Some candidates threw down big bucks, it said, to get "State-run" television, "computer problems" held up counting in an important race for executive in Taipei county, the home base of President Lee Teng-Hui. Opposition leaders have warned of vote-rigging in that district, where a loss to the nationalists would be a slap in the face to Lee.

Fundists say the opposition Democratic Progressive Party must win 35 per cent of the vote and several of the county magistrate seats for the election to be considered a victory. Opposition to the nationalists was banned under martial law, imposed by the late strongman Chiang Kai-Shek. In local elections in 1986, opposition candidates won 22 per cent of the vote.

In all, 722 candidates are running in the legislative, mayoral and county magistracy races.

The vote doesn't threaten the nationalists' hold on the country, but it is significant because it is the first national election since martial law was lifted in 1987 and the first time the ruling party faces legal opposition.

In the race for legislative seats from the capital, Taipei, nationalist candidates own eight of 12 seats.

Incomplete results indicated that Jaw Shau-Kong, a popular Nationalist Party legislator, was far ahead in his Taipei district. Jaw has pushed for political reform, calling for the retirement of ageing legislators and negotiations with the communist government in Beijing.

In the industrial city of Kaohsiung, Hsu Hsiao-Dan, a former dancer, model and painter, was falling behind in her race for the legislature. Hsu called for universal love and freedom in her campaign, during which she distributed nude photos of herself.

During the balloting today one voter told the Associated Press she sold her and her husband's vote to a nationalist candidate for 500 NT (\$19) each. Other voters confirmed that the going price for a vote was about 500 NT, although one woman said she only received 200 NT (\$8).



Taiwanese President Lee Teng-Hui and his wife Tseng Wen-Hui cast their ballots. (Reuters wirephoto)

Flag, anthem must at schools

Japan changes

TOKYO, Dec 2, (AP): All public high schools in Japan will be required to hoist the national flag and students will be required to sing the national anthem as part of curriculum changes starting next year, officials said.

The new curriculum rules adopted by the Education Ministry are to be phased in from 1990 to 1994. They require teachers to hoist Japan's flag and have students sing the anthem at graduation ceremonies and other school events.

To make it easier for students and teachers to adjust, the changes will be made gradually, starting in areas that would need no changes in textbooks, such as the flag hoisting and anthem singing at ceremonies and adjustments in credit requirements for boys and girls in physical education and home economics, said Tamae Onishi, an Education Ministry spokeswoman.

The ministry's basic stance has always been the same," he said.

Onishi said among the major objectives of the latest curriculum changes is to have students understand traditional and international culture.

Uprising in China inevitable

LOS ANGELES, Dec 2, (AP): A former leader of China's democracy movement said an uprising like the one crushed last summer by troops in Beijing will inevitably occur again, but probably not anytime soon.

Su Shaozhi, 67, who was director of China's Institute of Marxism and an advisor to former Chinese leader Zhao Ziyang, said pro-democracy proponents will have to wait until older, more conservative leaders die, but "a new democratic movement will erupt in China."

Minimum

Speaking at California State University at Northridge, Su said a minimum of two years would be needed to begin reorganisation efforts.

Su, who left China last year, said he faces prosecution if he returns.

He told the gathering of about 80 professors and students that the debate over how many people were killed during the military's crackdown on June 4 was unimportant.

Shot

"What is most important is that the people's government and the People's Army shot their own people," he said, speaking in English.

Su, who is a researcher at Marquette University's Bradley Institute for Democratic Values, said leaders and student groups involved in the movement formed too late and too haphazardly to be successful.

Truth

"The government said it was a planned conspiracy, but that's not the truth," Su said.

He added that the democracy movement has caused Chinese leaders to restrict many of the freedoms once allowed in China, but news of democratic reforms in Eastern Europe have given the Chinese people hope that change will occur.

S. Korea negotiating with Taiwan to resettle defectors

SEOUL, Dec 2, (AP): South Korea is negotiating with Taipei over the resettlement of 12 Chinese who arrived in South Korea aboard a chartered boat and asked for political asylum in Taiwan, the Foreign Ministry said yesterday.

Chang Moon, a ministry spokesman, said his government was in contact with the Taiwan and the UN High Commissioner on Refugees to help the Chinese settle in Taiwan.

He said an investigation confirmed that the Chinese, including one woman and 11 men ranging in age from 16 to 40, were being sought by Chinese authorities for joining in pro-democracy protests in China in May and June.

The spokesman said legal action would be required

against the Chinese because of their illegal entry into South Korea before they could be sent to a third country.

Chang did not say what punishment the Chinese would receive under Korean law, but one legal expert said they could be fined a nominal amount of money and then be allowed to leave the country.

Immigration officials earlier said the refugees, all from China's Zhejiang province, paid 1,000 yuan (about \$300) to charter a small fishing boat and left a port north of Shanghai on Nov 15 to go to Taiwan.

The wooden boat, unable to pass through tight Chinese coastal security, changed its course, headed for South Korea and disappeared after landing the passengers on the southern island of Cheju on Nov 21, the officials said.

South Korea does not grant political asylum to non-Koreans. All foreigners who have sought asylum in South Korea eventually have been sent to third countries.

Police closed a Beijing exhibition featuring six young Chinese artists sponsored by foreigners today in another sign the authorities are extending their tough ideological crackdown.

Three uniformed policemen and several in plainclothes arrived at the Great Wall Sheraton Hotel just hours before the exhibition of about 40 paintings was due to open.

"You have 40 minutes to remove those paintings," an officer told artists and organisers in the hotel's ballroom. The exhibition of mostly abstract and surreal paintings

was sponsored by the Foreign Correspondents' Club (FCC), an association of overseas reporters in China.

Ten Tibetan members of a pro-independence group, including at least eight Buddhist monks, were sentenced to prison terms at a mass rally in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa, official reports said yesterday.

The Xinhua News Agency said the 10 received sentences Thursday ranging from five to 19 years for forming a "counterrevolutionary organisation" in January this year.

At least eight of those convicted were monks from the Drepung Monastery, a community of more than 400 monks on the outskirts of Lhasa and one of the centres of the Buddhist-led pro-independence movement over the past two years.

De Klerk in Ivory Coast for talks

YAMOUSSOUKRO, Ivory Coast, Dec 2, (AP): Hundreds of schoolchildren greeted South African President F.W. de Klerk, singing "Long live de Klerk," "Long live dialogue," as he arrived yesterday for talks with Ivorian President Felix Houphouët-Boigny.

The Ivorian, Africa's longest-serving leader, long has advocated talks with South Africa to dismantle the apartheid system of legal race discrimination. Houphouët-Boigny opposes the sanctions espoused by most black African leaders.

Thousands of people lined the wide avenues of Houphouët-Boigny's hometown to welcome de Klerk on what officials in his party called the first official state visit by a South African head of state since the early 1970s.

Buses brought many to the city. Houphouët-Boigny wants to make the nation's capital, 200 kilometres (120 miles) north of Abidjan. The President already has built several mammoth and ornate buildings here, and workers recently completed construction of a basilica that rivals St. Peter's in the Vatican.

South African flags waved above the steamy runway as the South African Airways Boeing 747 carrying de Klerk arrived at midday.

Aides said Houphouët-Boigny was "slightly under the weather," but he met de Klerk as the South African stepped off the plane in 35-degree Celsius (95-degree Fahrenheit) heat.

A front-page editorial in the government-controlled daily *Fraternité* Matin said Houphouët-Boigny would urge de Klerk to "advance resolutely on the path of reforms already undertaken and whose echo has already begun to shake the citadel of apartheid."

The editorial said South Africa's strong economy and technological base can aid Africa. South Africa already has supplied Ivory Coast with animals for a national park near a project close to the heart of Houphouët-Boigny.

A leftist, black, radical movement, which rejects compromise with the South African government despite recent reforms was launched today.

More than 600 delegates packed a community centre in the black township of Soweto outside Johannesburg for the formation of the Pan Africanist Movement (Pam).

Angolas A large bomb planted by suspected UNITA rebels exploded in the Angolan capital last night, wounding 10 people and causing considerable damage to buildings and cars, the Portuguese news agency Lusa said.

Lusa reported from Luanda today that the blast was heard across the city and sent wreckage flying 100 metres (yards) from the residential building where the bomb was planted.

Officials believed the blast was the work of the rightist National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita).

Comoros to hold elections

PARIS, Dec 2, (AP): The interim president of the Comoro republic, said Mohamed Djohar, announced presidential elections would be organised in the next 40 days, the French news agency reported from Moroni, capital of the archipelago.

"My mission consists of organising free elections within 20 to 40 days," Djohar said in a radio broadcast Thursday night. Djohar, president of the Comoro Supreme Court, took over after the assassination Sunday of President Ahmed Abdallah Abd-Rahman.

Calm reigned in the Indian Ocean island capital yesterday morning, Agence France Presse reported, noting only a discreet presence of the presidential guard at the airport and in the centre of town.

The 300-man presidential guard, under French mercenary Bob Denard, controlled the airport and the centre of the capital, but there were no roadblocks and no identity checks, AFP said.

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Labour ahead of Tories

LONDON, Dec 2. (Reuters): Britain's opposition Labour Party is 10 points ahead of the ruling Conservatives while Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is at her lowest opinion poll rating since 1987, according to a new opinion poll.

The British Broadcasting Corporation "poll of polls", released yesterday was an average of the most recent surveys by the six main polling organisations in Britain over the past two weeks.

They showed Labour at 47 per cent, down one point from the previous month, with the Conservatives trailing at 37 per cent, one point up.

In the leadership stakes, Labour leader Neil Kinnock was ahead with 41 per cent saying they are satisfied with his leadership, while Thatcher rated only 33 per cent.

The figures were Kinnock's worst since the 1987 general election.

The BBC's Newsnight programme, which commissioned the poll, said six polling organisations spoke to just under 6,000 people in the last two weeks.

Thatcher is preparing to face her first leadership challenge next week after a little known Member of Parliament, Sir Anthony Meyer, said he would stand against her.

Takes own life

Doc shoots colleagues

CATANIA, Sicily, Dec 2. (AP): A doctor, stormed into an operating room, shot a colleague to death, wounded his physician girlfriend and killed himself yesterday, while surgeons nearby operated on a child, Italian news agencies reported.

The AGI agency said Vincenzo Parisi, 34, whipped out a pistol after quarrelling over suspicions that the woman paediatrician he lived with was having an affair with Giovanni Catania, another doctor on the staff at Catania's Victor Emmanuel hospital.

It said that after fatally shooting Catania, Parisi, an anaesthetist at the hospital, shot his girlfriend in the abdomen, wounding her. Then he shot himself fatally, AGI said. A report did not give the woman's name nor specify her condition.

Pollard's wife released to halfway house

NEW YORK, Dec 2. (AP): Anne Henderson-Pollard, imprisoned for helping her husband spy on the US government for Israel, has been moved from federal prison to a Manhattan halfway house, officials confirmed yesterday.

Mrs Henderson-Pollard had served two years and eight months of her five-year sentence when she was released from the federal prison in Danbury, Connecticut, according to Steve Finger, acting executive assistant at the prison.

She was placed in the custody of the women's prison association and Kopper House, which maintains a halfway house on Manhattan's lower east side.

She was released on Nov 20. Her father Bernard R.



Chin Peng: truce

Insurgency in Malaysia ends

Communists give up

HAT YAI, Thailand, Dec 2. (AP): One of world's longest insurgencies formally ended today as guerrillas of the Communist Party of Malaysia vowed to lay down their arms and pledge loyalty to king and country.

Ceasefire agreements among the communists, Malaysia and Thailand brought to a close 41 years of conflict that cost thousands of lives and at one time involved some 70,000 British Commonwealth troops.

A joint communique said the CPM had agreed "to terminate all armed activities and bring peace to the entire Thai-Malaysian border and Malaysia."

The communique said two agreements were reached, one between Malaysia and the CPM and the other between Thailand's internal security operations command and the communists.

"We shall disband our armed units and destroy our weapons to show our sincerity to terminate the armed struggle," CPM secretary general and veteran revolutionary Chin Peng said in a speech at the signing ceremony.

"As Malaysian citizens, we pledge our loyalty to his majesty the yang di-pertuan agong (king) and the country," said Chin Peng, who for decades had sought to topple the Malaysian government by force.

He later told reporters that the CPM included 1,200 guerrillas who have largely operated along the rugged, 600-kilometre (375-mile) frontier in recent years.

The communique said Thailand and Malaysia will insure fair treatment for the disbanded communists, who began their "war of liberation" in 1948 when Britain ruled what was then called Malaya.

"The government of Malaysia will in due course allow former members of the disbanded armed units led by the CPM who are Malaysian citizens or who have become Malaysian citizens to freely participate in political activities within (the) framework of the federal constitution and the laws of Malaysia," the communique said.

The communists pledged to respect the laws of the two countries and to participate in socio-economic development "for the benefit of the people."

Analysts in Thailand and Malaysia say meagre prospects for success, changes sweeping the communist world and perhaps China's reluctance to be linked to the insurgency led to the surrender — a word the CPM has refused to use.

Chin Peng said the agreements were "consistent with the current historical trend where the peoples of the whole world are striving for peace and democracy."

Hunt on for Red Army suspect

Herrhausen attack planned in advance

BAD HOMBURG, West Germany, Dec 2. (AP): Police were searching nationwide yesterday for one of the most wanted Red Army Faction suspects in connection with the bombing death of influential banker Alfred Herrhausen, authorities said yesterday.

Herrhausen, the head of West Germany's largest bank and one of Europe's most influential managers, was killed when a bomb ripped through the Deutsche Bank chief's car Thursday morning.

The chief federal prosecutor's office said one of two men seen running from the scene matched the description of 31-year-old Christoph Seidler. The office said Seidler was the target of a nation-wide search in the Herrhausen killing.

A Hamburg court in 1981 convicted Seidler of supporting the Red Army Faction. Seidler has been a fugitive for several years. His name routinely appears on a wanted poster of two dozen leftist terrorists that is displayed in West German post offices and

other public places, said prosecutor's spokesman Hans-Juergen Foerster.

The 31-year-old Seidler has been involved with the Red Army Faction for at least a decade, said the statement from the office of chief federal prosecutor Kurt Rebmann.

Rebmann added that Seidler is also being sought in connection with a terrorist-backed bank robbery in 1985.

The chief federal prosecutor said the terrorists had planned the attack against Herrhausen

weeks in advance.

"Near the area of the attack wires had been buried in the asphalt. The asphalt had been chiseled out up to nearby bushes, and after the wires were laid, filled in again," Rebmann said.

The asphalt sidewalk at the site of the attack is about four feet (1.30 metres) wide.

Rebmann said the terrorists took care to tint the new asphalt poured over the wires the same shade as the rest of the sidewalk, in order to make the work unnoticeable.



Herrhausen killed

Pan Am suspect's clothes seized

UPSALA, Sweden, Dec 2. (AP): Police asked a court yesterday to approve the seizure of 15 bags of clothing by Scottish detectives hunting for evidence in the explosion of Pan Am Flight 103 nearly a year ago.

The clothing was confiscated Monday from the home of Mohammed Abo Taleb, a Palestinian awaiting a verdict on separate charges related to terrorist bombings in Scandinavia and Holland in 1985 and 1986.

Seven Swedish policemen and three Scottish investigators stripped the apartment of clothing, emptying the closets of Abo Taleb's entire family, said his ex-wife who still lives with him.

Abo Taleb, a former activist in the Palestine Popular Struggle Front, was linked to Flight 103 when it was established he was in Malta two months before the Dec 21, 1988 explosion.

Investigators reportedly traced clothing bought in Malta to the suitcase which also contained the fatal bomb. The blast over Lockerbie, Scotland on board the New York-bound flight killed 270 people.

The detectives searched Abo Taleb's Upsala apartment for clothes also purchased on the Mediterranean island which could link him to the disaster.

In a 15-minute hearing, prosecutor Ulf Forsberg asked the court to confirm that the confiscation of the clothing was legal. The procedure was considered routine in an investigation involving foreign police.

Abo Taleb's lawyer Sven-Erik Sjogren asked the court to dismiss the motion and have the clothing returned. The judge said he would decide by Monday.

The Lockerbie incident was never mentioned by name during the brief hearing. Forsberg said only that Abo Taleb was "a suspect in another case in another country."

The prosecutor said it may not be necessary to remove the evidence from Sweden, and that the foreign investigators could complete their examination here.

Abo Taleb was brought from a Stockholm jail to Upsala, 70 kilometres (42 miles) to the north, for a closed-door hearing which followed the open session.

The judge in the case asked reporters to keep his name confidential. "We don't want to be prey on the streets," he said.

Under Swedish law, foreign police cannot seize evidence from a Swedish resident without court approval, and they must prove its value for their investigation.

If the court rules the seizure was legal, the case goes to the government for a decision on whether to turn over the evidence to foreign police, the law says.

Abo Taleb's ex-wife, Jamila Mograbi, told reporters that she was questioned for an hour during the search by the 10 Swedish and Scottish policemen on Monday, and was called to the police station on Wednesday for further questioning lasting four hours.

She said they seized 15 large plastic bags of clothing, and her family had to borrow clothes from friends. Miss Mograbi, though divorced from Abo Taleb, was pregnant with the couple's third child.

She said Abo Taleb had not left Sweden in November or December of 1988, and she could prove his whereabouts on at least several days during those months.

According to his passport, Abo Taleb was in Malta for a week in October 1988. He told his lawyer that he went there on business.

But Miss Mograbi, who is the sister of two other defendants in the bombing trial with Abo Taleb, said Abo Taleb had gone to Malta to recover from a knife wound.

She did not say how he was wounded, but said he spent the time in Malta with an Egyptian family.

NEWS IN BRIEF

US strips citizenship: The US Justice Department said yesterday it had obtained a court order stripping US citizenship from a former Ohio man accused of serving as a Nazi SS guard at World War II concentration camps.

A federal judge in Washington issued a default order that stripped Jakob Frank Denzinger, 65, formerly of Akron, Ohio, of his legal rights as a US citizen, the department said.

US district judge John Pratt issued the order last Monday after the attorney for Denzinger told the government his client did not plan to respond to the charges. (AP)

Khmer Rouge agrees to talks: The Khmer Rouge, the largest Cambodian guerrilla group, has agreed to attend new talks on ending the 11-year-old war against the Vietnamese-installed Cambodian government, a Thai Foreign Ministry official said yesterday.

All major parties in the conflict now have agreed to attend the talks, being organised by Indonesia. Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said the talks may be held in Indonesia's capital, Jakarta, by February. (AP)

Disease likely to hit Third World: Legionnaire's disease is likely to hit the Third World soon through the air-conditioning systems of new hotels, health experts said in Geneva yesterday.

The infection was likely to be one of the unwanted consequences of a tourist boom in developing countries, according to specialists from 10 nations at a three-day conference on the illness.

To date, the bacterial disease, linked to amenities such as air-conditioning and hot water systems, had been reported mainly in the industrialised world. (Reuters)

Court voids poll results: The superior court annulled yesterday the results of general elections in the southeastern province of Murcia, in Spain calling new elections in an order affecting the ruling Socialist Party's majority in parliament.

The three-judge Murcia superior court was trying to resolve a bitter dispute over a vote recount. (AP)

China seeks Indonesia ties: China announced today that the first official Chinese delegation to Indonesia in more than two decades will be dispatched to Jakarta tomorrow to discuss normalising relations between the two countries.

Indonesia broke diplomatic relations with China in the mid-1960s after alleging the Chinese had supported Indonesian communists in an abortive coup attempt against the Jakarta government.

The two countries last February reached an agreement on restoring relations. Unofficial trade relations have already resumed. (UPI)

5 executed in China: Five men were executed in northeastern China yesterday for stealing equipment that resulted in power outages and crop damage, an official report said.

Zhou Mingyu and Liu Gang of Sulan county in Jilin province destroyed seven transformers and stole 3,500 yards (3,200 metres) metres of wire in 1988, the Xinhua news agency said.

That caused damage worth \$5,400, cut power to 400 households in six villages and interfered with the irrigation of 236 acres (119 hectares) of rice paddies, the report said. (AP)

US sanctions called absurd: President Francisco Rodriguez denounced the Bush administration yesterday for implementing what he called an "unimaginative, absurd policy" banning Panamanian-flagged vessels from entering US ports.

The ban, which would go into effect Feb 1, is expected to drastically reduce revenues to Panama, which registers about 14 per cent of the world's merchant ships, partly because of relatively low costs. The measure is aimed at increasing pressure on Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega. (UPI)

Lawyers seek Moon release: Lawyers petitioned the South Korean government today to release an elderly, ailing dissident serving a 10-year sentence for secretly visiting North Korea.

Defence lawyers for the Rev. Moon Ik-Hwan said in a letter sent to the Seoul appellate court that Moon, 71, is suffering from heart and kidney ailments and his condition was deteriorating. (UPI)

NOTICE TO SHIPPERS AND FORWARDING AGENTS

The lines listed below advise that with effect from 1/1/90 their tariff for container freight from Gulf ports to the U.K., North West Continent and Mediterranean ports will be adjusted to the following:

To direct call ports, also Antwerp and Bremerhaven.

Per 20 ft container US\$550
Per 40 ft container US\$900

To Aarhus an additional of US\$250/400 will apply.

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Refrigerated Container Sea Frt US\$1000/1500
Sea Frt US\$1500/2800

Please note also that the basic rate will be further adjusted on 1/3/90 to:

Per 20 ft container US\$600
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THE BIG WAVE IN TV.

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

THE cruelest lies are often told in silence — Robert Louis Stevenson, Scottish-born writer (1850 - 1894).

Iron Curtain torn down

Nitze takes pride

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): For most of the past five decades Paul Nitze has been at the forefront of US policy toward the Soviet Union and now, having reached age 82, he is watching with fascination the crumbling of the Iron Curtain.

In one capacity or another, Nitze has served every president since Franklin Roosevelt, handling the push and pull of diplomacy with a toughness learned at an early age, when he joined a gang as a schoolboy in Chicago.

Nitze, who helped formulate the Marshall Plan that rebuilt Western Europe after World War Two, sees the changing face of Eastern Europe as a victory for the US policy of containing the spread of communism.

"The drive of the communist ideology is more or less finished," he says. But, he adds, the rapidity of events gives rise to a certain sense of trepidation.

"I don't think anybody has an idea what will happen in six months in Eastern Europe," Nitze said in an interview.

Dangers

"I do indeed feel that something good can happen. Of course, there are dangers involved, and one has to be cautious and prudent in a situation like that. It's been a glorious period, particularly in East Germany.

"The vision of a breakthrough from this horrible life in which much of the world has been contained, this repressive communist dominance, is a glorious thing."

Nitze, who gives candid portraits of the world leaders with whom he has worked in recently published memoirs, "from Hiroshima to Glasnost," says Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is bowed under the weight of enormous economic problems.

"I believe he's in trouble," Nitze said. "He's an outstanding and interesting and forceful character. It's a pleasure to be with him and watch him."

"But I really don't think he's a great strategist. He's a better tactician. He has ideas on where he wants to go but he doesn't, to me, have a clear path on how to get there."

Control

Through the decades Nitze's speciality has been arms control. It was he who took the once-secret, now-famous 1982 "Walk in the Woods" in Switzerland with Soviet negotiator Yuri Kvitinskiy that set the superpowers on the path toward a 1987 treaty banning intermediate-range Nuclear Weapons.

Nitze said he would be surprised if Gorbachev does not try to spring a new arms proposal on President George Bush during the shipboard summit off Malta in the Mediterranean.

"It's his stock-in-trade to come up with interesting initiatives that have some propaganda appeal," the diplomat said of Gorbachev, citing a new initiative on reducing conventional forces as a possibility.

"Mr Gorbachev needs so desperately to make progress in that field. He cannot possibly continue the type of military expenditures he has in the past. Where is he going to save money? The easiest place is the production of conventional forces."

Nitze was one of the key players in the 1986 summit in Reykjavik, Iceland, between Gorbachev and then President Ronald Reagan, a meeting that frightened the Western allies because it nearly led to an agreement on eliminating ballistic missiles, leaving in place Soviet numerical superiority in conventional arms in Europe.

Failure

Despite the widely held view that Reykjavik was a failure, Nitze, who stayed up all night negotiating with his Soviet counterparts, insists that summit was a "great success" because it cleared the way for the intermediate-range nuclear forces agreement and resulted in progress on other issues.

But he urges Bush to use caution in his first summit with the dramatic Soviet leader, advising the president to review carefully any new proposal and "if there's some merit in it, let's buy those parts of it that move the ball forward. If there are items that are not acceptable, let's say no."

Nitze's official service in government ended with the Reagan administration, a career punctuated by milestones of recent history — the Marshall Plan, the Korean War, the Berlin Wall crisis, the Cuban missile crisis, Vietnam, the Salt treaties and more recent arms control negotiations.

A wiry, silver-haired grandson of German immigrants, he prefers to give credit to the people for whom he worked, such as former secretaries of state Dean Acheson, George Marshall and George Shultz, and he had this to say about his longevity in the rough and tumble world of Washington.

"Having been fired more often than anybody else in the US government, and hired more often, I've had the opportunity to go off and think more than others on the strategic, moral and philosophical aspects of foreign policy."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1694 — Triennial bill becomes law in England, providing for new parliament to be elected every third year.

1808 — Madrid surrenders to Napoleon Bonaparte's French forces.

1810 — British capture Mauritius from French.

1912 — Armistice is signed between Turkey, Bulgaria, Serbia and Montenegro.

1944 — US forces cross Saar River in Germany in World War II.

1952 — UN General Assembly adopts India's proposal for Korean armistice.

1958 — Dutch businesses are nationalized in Indonesia.

1961 — United States deploys platoon of troops along border between East and West Berlin as East Germany begins strengthening Berlin Wall.

1962 — London is blanketed by one of worst fogs in years, and scores of people die of sulphur dioxide poisoning before fog lifts four days later.

1967 — Surgeons at Cape Town, South Africa, hospital report successful human heart transplant, said to be first of its kind.

1970 — British envoy James R. Cross is rescued after being held by Quebec terrorists in Canada for almost two months.

1971 — India declares state of emergency as Pakistani planes attack inside northwestern India in dispute over Kashmir.

1975 — Communists take control of Laos and declare end to 600-year-old monarchy.

1984 — About 200 people are reported dead and several thousand stricken after inhaling poisonous cyanide gas which leaked from Union Carbide insecticide factory in Central India.

1988 — Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, in first official act, calls for release of about 1,000 political prisoners and commutes all death sentences.

Modern world's oldest political dynasty falls

'King' becomes prime minister

NEW DELHI, (AP): Vishwanath Pratap Singh, the mild-mannered poet and painter who engineered the fall of the modern world's oldest political dynasty, was born to be king.

Instead, he is India's new prime minister. For more than two years, Singh stalked the dusty backroads of India, fiercely campaigning against corruption he said had overwhelmed daily life and derailed effective government.

Wherever he went, he was cheered and embraced as the "Rajah Sahib," or "honoured king."

Even though he says he really did not want the job, Singh on Friday was chosen to lead the National Front, the opposition alliance that ousted Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and ended the legacy passed from Gandhi's grandfather and India's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, and his mother and predecessor, Indira Gandhi.

The National Front and its tacit allies have staked their claim to forming the next government. And Singh, erstwhile king of the tiny northern region of Manda, will rule a much larger kingdom — a country of 880 million people.

The process to choose a leader was long, at times bitter and include serious challenges. But Singh said that is the way it should be.

"When India became independent, it became a democracy in name only," Singh said during the monthlong campaign that preceded the Nov 22-26 elections.

"The government went to the Nehru-Gandhi family and it has remained a dynasty," he said. "The government won't belong to me. I will belong to the government and the people."

The 58-year-old Singh has played a part in Indian politics since the early 1970s. But few people really know who he is.

Political analysts say Singh changes his ideological colour so often and with such deftness that it has become almost impossible to put him in a definite category.

A man who jealousy guards his private life, Singh works hard and lives a simple life — driving around in a chugging, fume-belching Ambassador Sedan and wearing traditional white cotton tunic-pajama suits.

He does not project the commanding presence of India's former leaders and seems to disappear in the crowds that swarm around him.

But image is not important, he said.

"I have always taken the stand that we have to shift from personal appeal to issues. That is the way a democracy matures," he said.

When Singh was 5, his biological father, the Rajah of Daiya, gave him to the childless Rajah of Manda. He grew up in one of the most palatial outposts in northern Uttar Pradesh state but childhood was lonely.

Not allowed to see his real family for years, the shy young boy turned to poetry and painting.

After his adoptive father died six years later, a bitter legal battle ensued over the estate and Singh was escorted everywhere — even to school — by armed guards.

He eventually inherited the estate, though the psychological effects took their toll, he said.



Prime Minister V.P. Singh

"But it gives one a lot of inner strength. It is something you can value more than anything else. Then you can suffer anything because you have got that," he said.

Singh gave away to untouchables his Manda kingdom long before Indira Gandhi outlawed royal titles in 1971.

Singh entered politics and became a loyal member of the Congress Party, handpicked and groomed for public service by Indira Gandhi.

When a young, idealistic and politically inexperienced Rajiv Gandhi became prime minister in December 1984 on a wave of sympathy two months after his mother's assassination, Singh was his first choice for finance minister.

Singh immediately initiated sweeping economic reforms, allowing foreign investment into India and overseeing an awakening of a stagnating economy that now grows about 5 per cent a year.

Gorbachev's agenda for superpower summit

Searching for clues to US intentions

MOSCOW, (AP): President Mikhail Gorbachev goes into the Malta summit searching for signs of US intentions — toward the Soviet Union, engaged in a titanic effort to modernize, and toward the fast-changing situation in Eastern Europe.

The Kremlin leader has endorsed the political changes that have brought reformers to power in every Warsaw Pact ally but Romania. But he speaks openly of fears that the West may try to exploit the situation.

Meanwhile, Gorbachev is struggling at home to rescue the economy and introduce political reforms — an effort, he says, that requires "a normal external environment for our domestic work."

What is Gorbachev's agenda for his talks with US President George Bush? Here is a checklist, based on interviews with Soviet officials, accounts in the state-run media and comments by Gorbachev himself.

US assurances on Eastern Europe. Gorbachev speaks directly of potential western meddling in Eastern Europe.

"The most dangerous thing at such moments is that someone may become tempted to use them for their own selfish interests," he said recently. Soviet politics also count: if the westward-facing shield formed by the Warsaw Pact crumbles, hard-liners could blame Gorbachev for squandering what Soviet soldiers spilled blood to gain in World War II.

Gorbachev says the Kremlin will no longer impose its views on its allies. To bar potential unrest, the Soviets may even endorse massive US assistance: Poland, for example, is now hunting for \$1 billion in Western cash.

An end to the cold war? Bush's invitation this month to Gorbachev to end decades of East-West confrontation was seized on by the Soviets as proof the superpowers are on the threshold of a "new stage of broad and open cooperation," in the words of Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady I. Gerasimov.

Will Malta mark the end of the cold war? "I don't know what that means, since the war was never declared in the first place," says Viktor A. Kremenyuk, deputy head of a Kremlin think tank studying the United States. What the Soviets clearly want is for the Americans to scrap economic machinery created as Western weaponry against the East, like restrictions on sales to the Soviets of such strategic



Mikhail Gorbachev

goods as computers. The Soviets also are moving to liberalize emigration of Jews and others in an effort to gain "most-favoured nation" trading status with the United States.

Predictable superpower relations. Beset with a teetering state-run economy, a bewildering array of ethnic disputes and the volatile political change throughout the East bloc, the Soviets look to US-Soviet relations for stability. In his Nov 23 speech, Bush called himself a supporter of perestroika, but the Soviets want him to add substance.

The Soviet ideal, says Kremenyuk, would be a "timetable" fixing goals for the Geneva talks on strategic weapons cuts, the Vienna negotiations on conventional arms in Europe and so on. The Soviets

have never bought Bush's description of the Malta meeting as an informal get-together, and want to return to Moscow with a superpower agenda, at least for the near term.

Help with the economy. Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze flushed with anger when asked whether the summit was called so the Kremlin could seek US aid for its shortage-plagued economy. "It offends our national pride," he said. Pride or not, the Soviets want US expertise, computers and management techniques.

Well into the fifth year of reforms, Soviets still must line up to buy rationed goods like meat and butter, and consumer grumbling is louder. Shevardnadze says the Soviets want "mutually beneficial economic and trade co-operation." But even if Bush agrees to loosen controls on high-tech exports and upgrade the Soviets' trading status, it's uncertain how much they could produce that the West would want to buy.

Show who's boss. After 4-1/2 years of Gorbachev's rule, Washington is debating whether he and his reform campaign can survive. US perceptions of the Soviets are now fused with the physical presence of the 58-year-old Soviet leader, so he must demonstrate he remains in command despite ethnic unrest that has killed 300 people, crippling strikes and increasingly vocal nostalgia for a "strong hand" like Josef Stalin. In the Soviet view, Gorbachev's eclipse or disappearance would cause the United States to question achievements in superpower relations since he came to power in March 1985.

Give a push to disarmament. The centrepiece of past summits, arms control is now overshadowed by the momentous changes in Eastern Europe. For Soviets, however, weapons cuts are tangible proof of Gorbachev's "new thinking" is paying off. The Soviets have cleared the way for progress by dropping their condition that Washington agree not to deploy space-based missile defenses, and now are hinting Malta could break remaining logjams. Kremenyuk said the Soviets want the 30 per cent to 50 per cent cuts in superpower arsenals envisaged by the proposed strategic arms reduction treaty, plus a cooling-off of regional conflicts like Afghanistan, so they can shift more resources to the civilian economy. Take measure of Bush.

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Justice sought

SIR: I am having a labour dispute with a hotel and I am trying to recover my dues according to my contract.

My case rests with the labour court and I am under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour.

But the hotel used its influence with the Saliya police station and got me arrested outside the labour court one day after my residence expired. Now I am thrown in jail and my deportation proceedings have started.

I usually sign documents but in the jail the police took my thumb impression on a document that the hotel personnel manager brought to sign. They also stuffed KD120 in my pocket and showed me a one way ticket. I feel I am being cheated out of a large sum of money. Neither will I be able to attend the labour court on my due date.

A senior labour officer from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour is very upset about this matter and he is trying to release me but is unable to do so.

I appeal to His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to the Minister of the Interior, to the Indian ambassador and to all the people of Kuwait to kindly intervene and grant a poor expatriate worker justice. I am now in the Dasmah jail like a common criminal. Please help me.

Julius Paul Cohelo,
Sharwaikh.

ALL letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

German unity still far off

BONN, (Reuters): German reunification, one of the key issues in the tumultuous changes sweeping through Eastern Europe, is still a far-off goal despite Bonn's bold blueprint for achieving it, officials and diplomats said.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's 10-point plan for German unity, the most far-reaching response yet from Bonn to the rapid changes in East Germany, requires a fundamental change in Europe's post-war balance of power before it can be fully implemented, they said.

Moscow and East Berlin must also be ready to allow the disappearance of one of the Kremlin's key prizes from World War Two — an allied German state. So far, this is something which neither has shown any signs of considering.

But according to Kohl's chief foreign policy adviser Horst Teltschik, the unity plan is meant to look far into the future and keep open all options on the road to reunification.

"We cannot answer all questions today because they are too difficult and demand a long-term development," he told Reuters.

He added: "We believe that a large majority (in East Germany) would want unity if they could vote freely."

"This is a real game plan, but I don't believe it can produce reunification, federation or confederation very quickly," a Western diplomat commented.

"There has to be a long public debate about it, both in Germany and in the Western countries, and we are just at the start of that debate," he said.

Outlining the background to Kohl's programme, Teltschik said it was impossible to give a timetable to the plan but there were important milestones along the way.

The first is a free election in East Germany, something diplomats do not expect until at least late next year, and the consequent emergence of a democratic government there.

Quote me

"The view is expressed in some circles that the establishment of genuine democracy in South Africa would result in the masses descending on the economy like a swarm of rapacious locusts. This view arises because it assumes that the people are incapable of understanding that there is a future." — Govan Mbeki, ANC member pleading a good governing of S. Africa by the ANC.

"Problems arise because of some of the killing methods used by elderly people in the countryside who don't know how to kill more humanely, but in cities the more modernised practices are used." — Spokesman Byung Ho-Son of the S. Korean embassy in London on the slaying of dogs and cats for consumption.

"Torture, mutilation, 'disappearance', murder and rape have become a hallmark of the armed forces' campaign against terrorism." — Amnesty International report on Peru.

"This is a step forward. They will contribute more to society rearing the next generation than they would robbing the hills of Punjab, killing innocent farmers." — An Indian political commentator on the election of Sikhs to the Parliament.

"Tonight you're going to see me hit the ball harder than you've ever seen me hit it before. I feel in control and confident." — Andre Agassi blowing his horn before a washout at the hands of Stefan Edberg.

"I feel gutted. It will take me a long time to get over this. I have never been sacked before in 28 years of football. My conscience is clear. The club is in a better state than when I arrived." — Mel Machin, Manchester City manager after being fired by the club for a string of poor shows.

"Gen. Aoun is placing the Lebanese nation at an impossible, destructive and reckless option that leads only to the underground shelters while the presidency has decided to lead the nation out of the death mill to peace." — Elias Hrawi, a Maronite Catholic and new Lebanese President.

"On the other hand, in '86 I won two Grand Slam tournaments and he won one, and he won more tournaments during the year than I did. I kept reading articles saying if he won the Masters, he should be No. 1. So, unless there are double standards, you should keep that option open." — Lendl on talk of Becker becoming world No. 1.

"While it is, of course, essential to pursue every initiative that might help bridge the gaps between the parties and bring them to the negotiating table, I cannot but be concerned by the fact that valuable time is passing and that the willingness to negotiate that exists today may be eroded by bitterness resulting from events on the ground." — Perez de Cuellar on the stalled Mideast peace talks.

الشرق الأوسط

Mideast won't get prominence at Malta summit

KUWAIT, Dec 2 (AP): Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said he did not believe the Middle East would figure prominently on the agenda of the US-Soviet summit, a newspaper reported today.

Mubarak also dropped hints that if Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir changed his present hard-line stance on peace talks, it could lead to a Middle East visit by US President George Bush.

"The Middle East will not be among the

priorities of the Bush-Gorbachev summit's agenda," he told a Kuwaiti Arabic daily in an interview.

The Middle East problem would impose itself on a superpower agenda "only when the concerned parties in the region assume a serious approach in resolving their problems," Mubarak added.

Mubarak said Israel was "manoeuvring" in response to the peace plan proposed by US Secretary

of State James Baker, which suggests an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, because it was under pressure from world public opinion to drop its adamant refusal to deal with the PLO.

Reiterating his view that he would not meet with Israeli prime minister unless there were a breakthrough, Mubarak said:

"I am not the only one to think that way. President Bush, for instance, said before he

assumed the presidency that he was prepared to come to the area if this helped solve the problem."

"In the same spirit, I took the initiative of suggesting a meeting with Shamir, but he has hastened to declare his famous no's to the international peace conference and to the principle of land for peace," he added.

"If Shamir is genuinely interested in a serious meeting, then it should be prepared and structured

to prove fruitful and serve the cause of peace," Mubarak said.

"What we do not want is a pure and simple meeting for Israel to tell the world later that it is trying to solve the problem."

The Egyptian leader also urged the PLO to accept the Baker plan, which it has not explicitly done so far because it is not satisfied that it would lead to an independent Palestinian state.

Libya watched the superpower summit today with indignation and suspicion that it might be among the losers in the new world order.

Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi has denounced plans to hold the meeting on two US and Soviet warships, recalling wartime summits at which the great powers divided the world into zones of influence.

E. Germany in quandary

Politburo member quits

EAST BERLIN, Dec 2 (Agencies): In a further blow to the embattled East German Communist Party, the youngest member of its ruling politburo said today he was resigning.

Hans-Joachim Willebrand, a candidate or non-voting member of the 13-member politburo, told the official ADN news agency it was no longer possible for him to function credibly as part of the leadership.

Willebrand, 37, was central committee secretary for international affairs, an exceptionally powerful post for such a young official.

His resignation followed a tumultuous parliamentary session yesterday, when lawmakers disclosed that top party officials had taken bribes, indulged themselves with luxuries at state expense and shammed away more than 100 billion marks (\$54 billion) in Swiss bank accounts.

Willebrand called for swift and thorough action against those guilty of misusing their authority.

The central committee meets tomorrow and more resignations could follow.

Concern

Willebrand told ADN in a statement his main concern was that the party work out a radically new policy programme at its congress in two weeks, concentrating on social democratic and communist traditions.

Willebrand said in a long interview with the daily Berliner Zeitung today that East Germany's political future would be learned from the Soviet Union's reform process had been the "saddest chapter in our party history."

He said the stubbornness of the old leadership under Erich Honecker had brought East Germany to the brink of disaster and a sell-out through a mass exodus to the West of disgruntled citizens.

East Germany's parliament abolished the Communist Party's 40-year guaranteed monopoly on power yesterday then made emotional attacks against leaders accused of hiding money in Swiss bank accounts.

In other developments, a city council demanded the resignation of Communist Party Chief Egon Krenz, and opposition groups called a two-hour general strike next week.

Parliament also passed a resolution regretting East Germany's decision to join the 1968 Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia that crushed the short-lived "Prague Spring" of reforms.

The resolution offered apologies to the people of Czechoslovakia and expressed solidarity with the process of reforms going on in the neighbouring country. Czechoslovakia's parliament abolished the communists' leading role on Wednesday.

Legislators gasped and shook their heads in disbelief yesterday

as the head of a committee investigating alleged power abuses and personal enrichment disclosed that billions of marks (dollars) had been squandered on luxuries for senior communists or stashed away in Swiss bank accounts.

Krenz boldly told the deputies who shouted for justice and compensation that his party was responsible for the severe problems of the national economy and the excesses indulged in by ousted leader Erich Honecker and his top aides.

Krenz assured the 500-member People's Chamber that "such behaviour will never be repeated," and denied that he personally has ever enjoyed the hedonistic lifestyle reported to have been created at state expense for his predecessors.

Scapgoats

Premier Hans Modrow promised "appropriate consequences" for those found guilty of enriching themselves at public expense, but like Krenz, he appealed for reason and caution to avoid a destructive search for scapegoats.

The unexpectedly sudden vote to strip the communists of their constitutional mandate to rule, and the shocking revelations of power abuses transformed the normally rubber-stamp session into a riveting debate that ended only late yesterday.

Meanwhile, the city council of Plauen called for Krenz's resignation over his alleged role in making municipal elections result this summer that gave the communists an overwhelming majority.

The Karl-Marx-Stadt chapter of New Forum, the largest opposition movement, called for a two-hour general strike on Dec 6 to press demands for quicker reforms and speedy punishment of those guilty of corruption.

The strike call also demands a separation of party and state functions, an open economy, abolition of party cells in factories and disbanding of the party's paramilitary workers' militia.

But later yesterday in East Berlin, New Forum leader Bärbel Bohley resisted the call to strike, although she said she supports the demands.

The 52-year-old Krenz is facing growing challenges to his leadership from both the opposition and his own party because of his longtime association with the Honecker leadership.

Krenz replaced Honecker on Oct 18.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl, meeting key US senators on the eve of an important superpower summit, assured them West Germany would not swap its NATO commitment for German reunification, the group's leader said yesterday.

"He (the chancellor) strongly affirmed under no circumstances would a reunified Germany be neutral," said US Sen. Richard C. Lugar, head of the visiting delegation.



Mahorita grilled

Vasil Mahorita, politburo member of the Czechoslovak Communist Party wipes sweat from his brow during a press conference. Mahorita announced the Communist Party's decision to repudiate Soviet-led Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968. (Reuters wirephoto)

Prague warned of chaos

PRAGUE, Dec 2 (Reuters): Czechoslovakia's pro-democracy opposition warned the ruling Communist Party today that the country would slide into chaos if promised reforms were delayed.

Disident playwright Vaclav Havel, a leader of the Civic Forum opposition movement, spoke as Prime Minister Ladislav Adamec completed the formation of a new government, including non-communists which is expected to be announced tomorrow.

Havel told the Communist Party's official newspaper Rude Pravo: "The government must act swiftly and carry out certain things and not just declare its readiness to do them."

He added: "Any delays could turn not only against us, that is the Civic Forum, but against the government and society as a whole. It would mean that we would all lose control of the situation."

Diplomats said Havel appeared to be warning the authorities not to try to play for time now that Civic Forum had suspended street protests.

Sunday is the deadline set in an opposition ultimatum for the announcement of the government.

Civic Forum has given Adamec until the end of December to map out a programme of reform, including the holding of free elections, or resign.

The demonstrations which started on Nov 17 forced the Communist Party this week to surrender its monopoly of political power and open up the government.

The appearance of an interview with Havel in Rude Pravo was itself a sign of the extent of communist concessions to the opposition.

Before the protest campaign, Havel was a banned person whose works have rarely been seen in Czechoslovakia and who has been frequently jailed for his opposition activity.

An opinion poll published by the official CTK news agency today showed that 90 per cent of people questioned favoured the abolition of guaranteed communist rule.

It said 30 per cent of the population supported Civic Forum with the figure rising to 58 per cent in Prague where one demonstration last weekend attracted 750,000 people. No indication was given of the size of support for the party.

Bush, Gorby emphasise on harmony in first talks

Storm in Mediterranean forces cancellation of scheduled meeting

MARSAXLOKK BAY, Malta, Dec 2 (AP): US President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev spent five hours together in their first summit talks today, and the White House said both men emphasised co-operation in a "productive" session.

The first meeting of the two-day shipboard summit took place on the Maxim Gorky, a Soviet luxury liner, after stormy weather forced cancellation of plans to meet aboard a smaller Soviet warship.

Bush returned to his headquarters on the USS Belknap following the initial sessions. The White House said an afternoon round of talks were put on hold because of the bad weather, which kept Bush from immediately leaving the Belknap.

"The discussion ranged from the economic situation in Eastern Europe to arms control and Central America," it said.

"Chairman Gorbachev spoke at length of perestroika and the goals of his reform programme."

The statement said Bush "emphasised his support for the success of perestroika" and "forth his ideas as a broad framework for actions that would help the two nations work together for peace and prosperity."

The White House said the opening talks included a "very productive, informal and substantive meeting."

"The meetings were sparked by a spirit of forward-looking co-operation during these increasingly changing times," it said.

"President Bush spoke for more than an hour to open the meeting, laying out more than a dozen ideas for economic and political progress in US-Soviet relations," the statement said.

"Chairman Gorbachev spoke at length of perestroika and the goals of his reform programme," it said.

There was no immediate Soviet comment on the first session. US Secretary of State James Baker had called the meeting an "excellent beginning."

Arms control, East-West trade and the dramatic democratic reforms sweeping Eastern Europe were expected to dominate the agenda for the Bush-Gorbachev talks, which both leaders said they hoped would strengthen the prospects for world peace and European unity.

Senior Soviet officials said Gorbachev wants the summit to produce a timetable for completing US-Soviet treaties on reducing strategic nuclear weapons, conventional forces in Central Europe and chemical weapons.

The officials, who spoke only on condition of not being identified, said Gorbachev would convene a meeting of Warsaw Pact leaders in Moscow on Monday to discuss the results of the two-day summit. Bush will spend Monday briefing Allied leaders at NATO headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.

Shipboard ceremonies officially opening the summit were cancelled because of the inclement weather.

Bush and Gorbachev shook hands aboard the white Soviet passenger cruise ship, which is docked at a pier in Marsaxlokk Bay off Malta's rocky southern coast. The US President travelled by launch from the Belknap, his summit residence.

Gorbachev joked that the strong winds, gusting to 48 miles per hour (77 km per hour), were part of a Soviet effort to destroy the US Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean.

"Let's go to work," Bush was overheard saying as they went inside to begin their discussions.

American and Soviet defence attaches presented a Greek sculptor with fragments of nuclear missiles to be forged into two statues symbolising peace.

For the first session, Bush and Gorbachev gathered with their entourages in the card room of the liner, each sitting in deep captain's chairs.

A White House statement said Bush and Gorbachev talked "almost continuously" for nearly five hours, including a session with aides, a session with only notetakers and continued discussion over lunch.

The President and his Soviet counterpart "recognised that economic and political challenges were ahead for Eastern Europe, and vowed to consider the opportunities presented with sensitivity and firm initiative," said the statement issued by White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater.



'Here we are'

US President Bush and Soviet leader Gorbachev shake hands aboard the Soviet cruise liner Maxim

Gorky prior to their first summit meeting at Marsaxlokk Bay, Malta. (Reuters wirephoto)

Gorbachev also went some way towards condemning the 1968 Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia, terming Moscow's reaction to the "Prague Spring" as "not quite appropriate."

The Kremlin chief said recent moves by East Germany towards Western-style democracy opened the way to greater co-operation with the West, but the peoples of both German states still had the right to decide their future.

"I think that today ... to pose the problem (of reunification) on this level, to say that it is an international political problem ... does not seem to me quite right," Gorbachev told a questioner.

The Soviet leader's remarks were seen as only a mild rebuke to West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who last week proposed a federation with East Germany as a first step towards eventual reunification as part of a new European order.

MILAN, Italy, Dec 2 (Reuters): Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said yesterday German reunification should not be pushed at the moment but appeared to admit its eventual possibility, saying: "History will decide."

At a news conference winding up a three-day visit to Italy, Gorbachev also went some way towards condemning the 1968 Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia, terming Moscow's reaction to the "Prague Spring" as "not quite appropriate."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Russia appeals to Azerbaijan:

The Soviet Union's Russian Federation has appealed to Azerbaijan to lift a renewed railway blockade against neighbouring Armenia, the Sovetskaya Rossiya newspaper reported today.

The Popular Front, a political movement with a huge following in Azerbaijan, re-imposed the blockade this week to back demands that Armenia give up its claims to the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

More than 120 people have died since February 1988 in ethnic clashes over the territory, which is part of Azerbaijan but has a predominantly Armenian population demanding unity with Armenia. (Reuters)

Gorbachev warns:

President Mikhail Gorbachev said in a message delivered yesterday that Lithuanian communists risk damaging his reform movement if they persist in their fight for independence, a Lithuanian journalist and political activist said.

Eduardas Potashnikas said the Communist Party ideology chief read the statement during a meeting of the Lithuanian Communist Party central committee on the Baltic republic's drive for independence.

Lithuanian leader Algirdas Brazauskas rebuffed the ideology chief, Vadim Medvedev, as he read the appeal, said Potashnikas, a Lithuanian TV editor and a member of the Sajudis political movement. (AP)

De facto recognition:

Soviet authorities have granted congregations of the banned Ukrainian Catholic Church the right to register, a church activist said on Friday.

But Ivan Hel, who heads a committee to defend the church banned by Josef Stalin in 1946, said that conditions imposed by the authorities meant that the move did not amount to a real legal basis for the church.

Hel said the decision, which amounts to de facto recognition of the church, had been read on local television on Wednesday in Lvov, the church's heartland. (Reuters)

Yeltsin warns:

Soviet radical Boris Yeltsin warned yesterday the Soviet Union may be heading for a grassroots revolt if Mikhail Gorbachev does not speed up the pace of social and economic reforms.

"There is the possibility of a revolt (from below) if radical reforms are not introduced within a year," Yeltsin, a member of the Supreme Soviet, told a news conference.

Yeltsin, in Athens on a six-day private visit, has become a popular hero in the Soviet Union by railing against the Soviet establishment. (AP)

Hungary denies:

The government denied yesterday an American press report that it has expelled a renegade CIA agent who defected to the Soviet Union.

The Los Angeles Times had quoted a US government source as saying that Hungary revoked Edward Lee Howard's asylum status at least a month ago despite protests from the Soviet KGB intelligence services.

But Col. Karoly Nagy, head of the Hungarian Interior Ministry's department for the supervision of foreign nationals, told the Associated Press yesterday that Howard had not been expelled from Hungary. (AP)

Rare admission of mistake:

Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu, one of the most implacable opponents of the reforms sweeping across Eastern Europe, has said the Communist Party and government must run the country better.

Ceausescu made a rare admission of past mistakes at a meeting of the party's ruling politburo yesterday, the first since he was re-elected party leader at a congress last week at which he shunned democratic reforms. (Reuters)

Slovenia denouncing Serbia:

A group representing the views of the Republic of Slovenia's leadership yesterday denounced the break-off of relations called for by the Serbian Republic as an attempt to "oust us from Yugoslavia."

The statement from the presidency of the Socialist Alliance of Slovenia came as the war of words escalated between the liberal and prosperous Slovenia and hard-line communist Serbia.

Serbia on Tuesday banned all political and economic contacts with Slovenia. (AP)

Walesa pleads:

Solidarity leader Lech Walesa told a meeting of labour leaders last night that the success of post-communist Poland depends on Western investment in his country.

"The transition ... to democracy is the greatest call of our times," Walesa told the Trades Union Congress. "The success or failure of the reform process in Poland will be decided by the economy."

The Polish union leader repeated pleas, made two weeks ago in the United States and in the past three days in Britain, for more Western aid to Poland. (AP)

Military sale

Soviet missile equipment

MOSCOW, Dec 2 (AP): For sale: used truck, 12-wheel, with trailer. Army green. Maximum speed 40 km (25 miles) per hour, weight 28,000 kg (62,000 pounds). Previously used for hauling nuclear missiles. Minimum price: 80,000 roubles (\$49,600), as is.

As US President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev prepared for their shipboard summit in Malta, the Soviet military was trying to recoup a little of the money it invested in the cold war.

Yesterday, the Ministry of Defence and several semi-public organisations put on sale in Moscow military support equipment for the medium-range nuclear missiles destroyed under a 1987 US-Soviet agreement.

It is part of the Soviet drive to reorient its economy from the military to domestic needs, something that Gorbachev and Bush are likely to discuss as well.

Items as small as three-rouble (\$1.86) coils of cable and as big as the monster 12-wheel trailer truck were packed into an exhibition hall in Moscow's northeast Sokolniki Park,

to be sold to anyone who comes up with the money.

"We want to learn how this equipment can be used in the national economy," said Yuri Vorontsov, a spokesman for the sale.

One of the sale's organisers, Elvin Kahina, said more and different equipment might be offered at later sales, depending on the success of this first one. In the future, the organisers might also offer after-sales service, he said.

As many as 100 potential buyers were milling around the drafty exhibition hall, among them Genady Gritsevsky, a departmental director for the government environmental commission, Goskomperioda.

Gritsevsky was looking for a vehicle to turn into a mobile environmental laboratory to take to chemical factories, dumps, and elsewhere. He was facing down another green behemoth, this one with a cabin built onto its flatbed.

The starting price was 35,000 roubles (\$21,700, at the official exchange rate), but that's not what was bothering Gritsevsky.



Elizabeth Taylor waves to admirers at the benefit gala. (Reuters wirephoto)

WHO reports 200,000 Aids cases world-wide

GENEVA, Dec 2 (AP): Nearly 200,000 Aids cases have been reported world-wide, the World Health Organisation said yesterday, in a report published to coincide with World Aids Day.

The organisation's headquarters in Geneva were draped with patchwork quilts bearing names and mementos of victims of the deadly syndrome, including "Baby Jessica," as a poignant reminder of the global tragedy.

In its Aids update report, the WHO said 11,000 new Aids sufferers were registered by the end of last month, bringing the total number of cases to 198,165.

The United States reported 3,025 of the new cases, raising its mid-November total to 110,333, some 56 per cent of the world total. The United States has recorded 18,043 new victims so far this year, according to the WHO report.

Bermuda, with 122 notified cases, has the highest rate of the disease, with 49.1 cases per 100,000 people. Another popular holiday resort, the Bahamas, follows with 38.0 cases per 100,000. This compares with 12.0 per 100,000 in the United States.

WHO said Kuwait, San Marino on Europe, and the tiny Comoros islands off the east coast of Africa, have reported their first Aids cases.

The WHO report covers only people diagnosed as having acquired immune deficiency syndrome. The number of reported cases does not come close to representing the true extent of the problem because many cases, especially in Africa, go unreported. The WHO report also does not include people infected by the HIV virus who have not developed the disease itself.

Dr Jonathan Mann, director of the WHO's Aids programme, said that during the 1980s, 600,000 people are believed to have been afflicted with full-blown Aids, of which an estimated 300,000 died. He said more than 5 million people became infected with the HIV virus.

"The World Health Organisation predicts that by the

year 2000, 6 million Aids cases may have occurred. If HIV spread accelerates, especially in Asia, these estimates will be too conservative," he told his audience in Geneva.

At a ceremony to mark the second World Aids Day at WHO's headquarters, its director-general, Dr Hiroshi Nakajima, appointed Princess Chulabhorn of Thailand as WHO's goodwill ambassador for the next two years.

Princess Chulabhorn, who holds a doctoral degree in organic chemistry, said she saw her main task as promoting WHO's health objectives among heads of state throughout the world.

The princess also called for more education and training as the best way of stemming the spread of Aids and urged greater understanding for victims.

"We should consider Aids patients as friends in need but not as public enemies," she told journalists.

The daylong event, which focused on young people, also included panel discussions, workshops with local school-children and the release of two new films on Aids. Brightly coloured quilts draped the normally grey walls of the WHO building.

Traffic awareness in schools vital: Agha

Drivers warned to abide by code

KUWAIT in a determined bid to reduce road accidents and the related increase in traffic deaths is exerting every effort to stress and highlight the importance of imparting traffic awareness at all levels of society, according to a senior Kuwaiti traffic official.

Speaking to a local daily, Col. Ahmad Abbas Agha, director of the Traffic Sentences Enforcement Department, called for the introduction of a special subject on traffic education into the Ministry of Education's general curricula for the elementary and secondary levels. He recommended tailoring such curricula along the guidelines used in advanced countries.

The official called on all drivers to strictly abide by the traffic code and respect speed limits established by the law. He warned drivers against passing red-light signals — which often are the cause of death and other serious forms of injuries to humans and considerable monetary and material damage.

Disclosing figures of traffic violations, Agha said that the total number of traffic sentences enforced in 1988 amounted to over 50,000 — of which 560 were jail terms. Of this number 25,015 were sentences on traffic violations and the rest of accidents. He commented that the percentage of these sentences is comparatively high in relation to the number of drivers in Kuwait.

Drivers in Kuwait belong to 130 different nationalities who consequently have their own understanding of the traffic concept and related regulations. This accounts for the different driving patterns seen in Kuwait

and result in continued violations of traffic regulations, Agha said.

The department executes its duties in the decentralised mode which contributes to speeding up the settlement of traffic related issues and following the introduction of computers and upgrading of the work performance at the department, clients are now easily able to process their transactions.

Penalties
Speeding through a red signal is considered a serious traffic violation which would be punished by either jail term of not more than one month or a fine of not more than KD50. This judicial sentence could also be associated with the withdrawal of driver's licence, the vehicle's registration or both, Agha said.

He added that traffic violations such as speeding, running through a red signal, drunken driving, careless driving etc. all would be referred to the court. Failure by the people involved to attend court sessions against them in absentia, whereas their presence could give them the chance to defend themselves and explain their circumstances at the time of the traffic violation.

Agha said that drivers must commit themselves to drive within the speed limit and speeding would be punished by either a one-month jail term or a KD50 fine besides the withdrawal of the licence and car registration. Penalties need to be stringent to avoid the danger involved in speeding whether to innocent people or

car collisions, overturning or crashing.

He added that the speed limit on motorways did not exceed 120 kmph while on internal roads it ranged between 60 to 80 kmph depending on the traffic flow.

Over speeding drivers would be brought under control by increasing the number of highway patrol vehicles which would chase the violators and issue tickets. The official called on the information media to step up its contribution to raising public traffic awareness by illustrating the dangers involved in violating traffic regulations and ensure safety for road-users, the official said.

He stressed the importance of driving in full respect of the enforced traffic code as an ethical co-operation with the traffic police, since driving was defined as an art with taste and ethics. Drivers must always concentrate on the road and never let themselves be diverted while driving to ensure their safety and that of pedestrians or other cars, the director said.

Jeopardy
He added that some young drivers derived pleasure from violating traffic regulations by speeding, racing, or driving carelessly, jeopardising in the process their lives and that of others. This group of drivers need to understand that the care is a means and not an end. Used reasonably it would serve the purpose for which it was made, otherwise it would turn into a death machine that would only leave behind a trail of death and sadness.

Policies to be evaluated at GCC summit

Focus on international developments: Bishara

RIYADH, Dec. 2, (QNA): The GCC Secretary-General Abdullah Ya'qub Bishara has stressed the importance of issues on the agenda of the 10th GCC summit to be held in Muscat on Dec 18.

Speaking to the Qatar News Agency the official said that the summit would be devoted to evaluating GCC achievements over the past period and to draw up working policies for the stages to come.

He added that the 10th GCC summit strategy would focus on international developments on various levels and on the

latest events in the Arab world in general and in the Gulf region in particular.

Elucidating, he said that the summit would study the results of the superpower summit between the US President and his Soviet counterpart, and its effects on the international and regional spheres, as well as developments of the Palestinian question for further support of the valiant Palestinian intifada all the way through until victory was achieved.

Discussion at the summit would also discuss the latest events in Lebanon in the

light of the results of efforts exerted by the tripartite Arab committee, Bishara said.

He also said that discussion at the summit would deal with the situation in the Gulf region and efforts aimed at establishing durable and lasting peace in the area and end the state of war between the two Muslim countries Iraq and Iran by means of a fair decision acceptable to both parties.

Other issues to be discussed at the summit would be ways to further strengthen GCC progress to foster the achievements

so far made in the various economic fields.

The GCC march had no time schedule to abide by, but what seemed difficult to achieve today would be easier to achieve tomorrow, Bishara commented and added that a statement would be issued at the summit meetings outlining the various issues tackled in the political, economic and social spheres. Further the GCC leaders would be reviewing a comprehensive report of the various achievements made at the GCC level in various fields Bishara said.

Debt plan

Industrial countries support initiative

VIENNA, Dec. 2, (Kuna): Director-General of the UN Industrial Development Organisation (Unido) Domingo Siazon said yesterday that the initiative of the UN Secretary-General to set up a committee of industrial countries to support the debt problem of the developing countries has been given initial support by major industrialised countries around the world.

In an interview with Kuwait News Agency, Siazon said the talks he had in these countries have indicated that US President George Bush, French President Francois Mitterrand and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl support the proposal of the UN Secretary-General which he made in his speech at the UN General Assembly last year.

The Unido director-general added that some of these countries, such as West Germany and Japan, have started to consider, even though partially, to work in accordance with the Kuwaiti proposal for forgiving parts of the debt of some poorer countries.

He stressed that Unido will continue its efforts which call for adopting the Kuwaiti proposal as a basis for dealing with the debt problems of the developing countries.

Siazon expressed satisfaction with the positive response to the Kuwaiti proposal from the third conference of Unido that would open here November 25.

The Unido executive said the organisation will also work to implement the resolution adopted by the third conference on extending technical assistance to the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories and to participate in developing the Palestinian industrial sector.

He said negotiations are under way between Unido and Israel with the aim of convincing the Israeli authorities to remove restrictions imposed on Unido officials who try to enter the occupied territories.

On Unido and the Arabian Gulf states, Siazon said that the organisation is at present working to expand co-operation with these countries, particularly with Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

He added that Saudi Arabia and Saudi banks and national establishments finance the projects which receive Unido technical expertise, and said the organisation receives financial benefits from such co-operation.

He also said that the organisation is holding talks with the Algerian government to open a regional bureau in Algiers to co-ordinate Unido projects in the Arab Maghreb states.



Crime Investigation course

The third course on crime investigation was opened yesterday at the Non-Commissioned Officers Institute at the Police Academy. The opening was attended by Lieut Col Bader Al Eldan, the assistant director of the Non-Commissioned Officers Institute, and a number of other officers.

Shuwaikh Industrial Area to be completely re-arranged

By Jamal Ameen

THE director of the Planning Department at Kuwait Municipality Mosa Al Sarraf has said that the re-arrangement of the Shuwaikh Industrial Area will be implemented through the third option already approved by the Municipal Affairs Committee and the Council of Ministers.

Speaking to a local daily, the official said that the solution to the Shuwaikh Industrial Area, which has been called the industrial-commercial vocational area, was not an easy one and could not be achieved overnight but demanded painstaking planning and work.

The proposed solution to ease off the pressure on this area was to provide other alternative areas to meet the needs of inhabitants by setting up vocational, industrial and commercial areas in different places in the country. These areas have been identified as Abu Halifa, Mangaf, Qirain, Maslah, Ardiya, Jahra and Mubarakiyah. Further a number of decisions were currently being studied by the Municipal Affairs Committee in this connection before taking appropriate decisions, Sarraf said.

He added that there is a plan by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry aiming to provide some vocational and other simple services in different residential areas to meet the daily service requirements of the inhabitants such as electrical services for cars and homes. Thus, it would relieve pressure and lessen crowds from the industrial and vocational quarters in the country.

Sarraf said that the planning process in Kuwait is progressing satisfactorily in a manner becoming of Kuwait as a developing country which is associated with the progress of urbanisation. These are being implemented within the framework of the Kuwait Masterplan, the official commented.

He said that the ministries involved in the rearrangement of the Shuwaikh Industrial Area were

currently conducting consultancy studies to identify the requirements of these areas and determine the best ways to meet them. Some of these ministries need more time to review the administrative rules and regulations to comply fully with the new regulations.

To solve all problems of the Shuwaikh Industrial Area is not an easy process, and it would take long time as radical changes were required and no expedient temporary measures could do.

He added that the solution to the problems of Shuwaikh area must be linked to the solutions of other similar problems in different other areas, as Shuwaikh served more than half the population in Kuwait.

The relocation of the garages and service shops in the Jahra Industrial Area to different areas would reflect negatively on the area. Accordingly, the Municipal Affairs Committee had decided to retain these services in place and suitable alternatives have been established in the area.

He said that there were two industrial and vocational projects planned for the Jahra area. One in Sulabiya, where work had already been completed and the project has been operational for six months. The other is still under construction in Jahra, where plots of land would be set up to be used to establish commercial businesses as decided by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

He said that Sabhan is a purely industrial area, and that it could not be used to provide any professional or vocational services, nor would it be possible to expand the area as its location is close to areas owned by ministries.

The planning process usually focussed on high investment areas where the building and urbanisation percentage is high, as also population density. This results in the expansion of health, educational and other public service facilities in the areas, Sarraf said.

Health situation excellent: Awadi

KUWAIT, Dec. 2, (Kuna): Planning Minister and Acting Health Minister Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi has affirmed that the health situation in Kuwait is excellent.

In an interview with a local daily, Awadi said that environmental studies are of great importance toward pinpointing direct causes of the spread of diseases and evaluating prevention activities.

He noted that anti-disease campaigns have met with great success and a number of diseases were contained thanks to efficient combating methods.

Awadi stressed that the ministry is always keen to cut down the number of fatalities resulting from affliction with a contagious disease.

He added that illnesses that can be prevented through vaccination are now under total control and the epidemic 'waves' of previous years no longer exist. Awadi indicated that affliction with contagious diseases in 1988 were in ninth place among causes of death.

He said that children mortality rate last year was estimated at 16.3 for each 1,000 births, compared to 16.8 in 1987.

He also pointed out that 520 cases of food poisoning, 394 cases of Brucellosis and three cases of typhus were reported during 1988.

Malaria cases reported were 1,229 in the same year, Awadi said. In 1979, cases of food poisoning reported last year were in Jleeb Al Shiyukh, 46 cases in Umm Al Hayman and 45 cases in Rigas area.

The ministry has reported 163 cases of whooping cough last year. The ministry increased its control on measles and only 70 cases were reported last year. The ministry also reported 3773 cases of diarrhoea with a percentage of 192.65 per 100,000 people.

He added that most of the Brucellosis cases were caused by drinking unpasteurised milk.

Awadi, last week met with a delegation of Union of Importers of Drugs headed by Naser Al Hajiri.

Alecso session opens in Tunis

TUNIS, Dec. 2, (Kuna): The executive council of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (Alecso) started here today its 48th session chaired by Kuwaiti Education Minister Undersecretary Abdul Rahman Al Khodri.

Khodri expressed hope, in an inauguration speech, that the session would be a success.

He praised the efforts exerted by director-general of the organisation Dr Msr'a Al Rawi in following the decisions issued by the council to enhance joint Arab work in the fields of education and science.

The seven-day conference's agenda includes the director-general's report on the organisation's performance, a study on the proposals on establishing an Arab centre for developing professional training and Palestine's proposals on teaching the Palestinian question in Arab schools and facilitating Palestinians admission in Arab schools and universities.

Diverse pricing structure at co-ops

Unified profit policy

ALL commodities priced by the Co-operative Societies Union, or commodities which bear the trade mark of the union in addition to commodities that receive subsidies have unified prices at all co-operative sources, according to a senior union official.

Abdul Latif Al-Kharaz, general director of the Co-operative Societies Union speaking on the issue disclosed that all commodities are subject to the unified profit rate policy based on the union's keenness in unifying prices of commodities at all co-operatives.

In an interview with a local daily, the official cited various reasons for a difference in prices being manifested at various societies. Mainly, this occurs when new commodities are marketed for the first time at specific co-operative societies during which trial-run period the investment percentage is added to the price.

In another instance, diverse pricing structure will occur when co-operatives obtain free of charge goods when they purchase a large amount of goods of the same item and consequent discounts are given from the selling price on a percentage basis. Here also, a percentage of commodities are given to the purchasing co-operative which is termed as 'promotional incentives', the official said.

Further, he said that some co-operatives may also import specific goods with limited quantities and then display them with prices less than union agents prices.

However, Kharaz said that there are over 6,000 varieties of commodities that are unified in prices among all co-operative societies. These commodities include most foodstuffs and other consumables. Other

unified prices of commodities include commodities supported by the government like infant milk, and other items which are governed by ration cards and other products of government companies.

Regarding future plans for the unification of prices at co-operatives, Kharaz stated that inspectors methodically conduct checks on prices of items at co-operatives. A special inspection staff has been formed by the union to follow up the pricing schedule at different co-operatives and ensure that the pricing structure is strictly adhered to, the official said.

The operational system implemented at co-operative societies is accurate and prevents any cheating incidents which may be attempted by importers. Each market provides its own team in order to follow up and approve incoming commodities, Kharaz said.

Low level of KU arts graduates acknowledged

THE head of the History Department at the Faculty of Arts of Kuwait University, Dr Abdulmalek Al Tamimi, acknowledged the low level of graduates of the department.

In an interview with a local daily, Dr Tamimi had attributed this to poor preparation during the general education period.

Replying to a question, he said that the department had no higher studies division, as the conditions required for establishing such a division were not achieved.

He said there were 20 teaching staff, including 13 Kuwaitis. He said the faculty had agreed to establish a new division at the department for archaeology.

He confirmed that the number of the teachers at the department was commensurate with the number of students and the department was facing no shortage in this connection.

The general consensus among merchants is that prices are extremely reasonable and their profits are negligible due to the world-wide recession.

Najem Jiwangi, a clothing shop owner said that he deals with clothes imported from Spain and though the quality is good, prices are quite cheap. He explained that his profit margin on each piece of clothing he sells does not exceed half a dinar.

Another merchant, Ghaleb Al Hajri said that due to the slump prevailing in the clothing market, he finds it quite difficult to pay the shop rents which have increased during the past few years. Replying to a question as to the reasons for the high prices of childrens clothing, Hajri said that local agents were increasing the prices.

He went on to state that he had been working in

this field for the past 25 years and is quite disheartened to witness that in the last few years, people mostly purchased from the popular markets in view of the upsurge prevailing in the sales.

He criticised the spread of the popular market — particularly in the model areas such as Salmiya. He said that the goods sold in these markets are of poor quality.

Speaking of an increase in prices of clothing imported from Turkey, he said that local agents had increased the prices and retail merchants had no alternative, but to increase prices accordingly.

Salah Idris, a merchant with several decades of experience said that when an item is purchased cheaply, it ultimately becomes expensive. This is due to the fact that a cheap item, lacks quality, and after a single wash demonstrates the value of money paid for the 'miserable looking piece of clothing'.

Commenting on the Ministry of Commerce and Industry's Consumer Protection Department's

decision obliging merchants to fix prices of each item displayed in the showcases, he said that this decision is not in favour of the merchants. The customer is not not benefitted as he has to purchase an item at a fixed price — without his being in a position to ascertain its quality. Clothing coming from countries like France, Germany or the UK are undoubtedly of quality and consequently cost much more than comparative clothing coming from Third-World countries, he said. The move of the ministry is also designed to create healthy competition among merchants, he added.

Asked to reply to the accusation that rich people complain that prices of quality clothes in Kuwait are extremely high, Idris said that this section of society barely purchased any items from the local market as they continually travelled abroad and thus the majority of their purchases of luxury clothes and accessories were purchased directly from countries

they visited.

He said that many childrens' shops were closed due to bankruptcy in view of the slump phenomenon prevailing in the market. He added that in his 37 years as a dealer in clothes, he had not witnessed such a drastic drop in sales. He attributed this drop to the Manakh crisis, the Iran-Iraq war, the drop in the price of oil and the reduced oil production and a state of insecurity — both for the citizen and the expatriate.

He added that in his capacity as a merchant and local agent for clothing, he had witnessed that prices were increased every year by 15 per cent directly by the manufacturers. He denied that merchants were cheating customers and clarified that all imports were conducted in accordance with documents that had been verified by the customs departments.

Specifically, he said that customers had found the authority to defend their causes, but lamented that the merchants had no cause to protect their rights.

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New PAAET plan to lay emphasis on private sector

Authority to provide technical manpower

DEPUTY Director General of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, Hmoud Fahad Al Modhaf announced that the forthcoming five-year plan of the authority will lay emphasis on the private sector. He stressed that the issue of Kuwaitisation will be difficult to achieve within a year or two adding that replacing expatriate manpower with national manpower requires more time.

Interviewed by a local daily, he indicated that presently the Kuwaiti manpower represents 27 per cent of the

total local manpower. However, he commented that it is possible to increase the national manpower percentage up to 50 per cent by the end of the five-year plan.

Modhaf said that he does not support the idea of building an applied university for the time being. He said that the manpower market has large number of university graduates but lacks technicians and labourers.

He stated that Kuwait University took an effective part in changing students' directions with regards to arts specialities and is encouraging

students towards joining scientific specialities. He pointed out that students at the authority's Fundamental Education College joined the college on their own initiative. However, students at other colleges did not have any alternative, but to join the authority.

Modhaf explained that the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training has graduated a total of 18,000 to 20,000 students since its establishment. He indicated that the number of graduates is almost identical to the number of university

graduates, even though Kuwait University was established 10 years before the authority.

With respect to the most important features of the upcoming five-year plan for the authority, Modhaf stated that it includes establishing new buildings, maintaining current buildings and the establishment of a new complex located at the grounds of the Industrial College. He indicated that the new complex will include four colleges, four training centres and the authority diwan. He added that colleges and institutes were originally

established at old buildings and pointed out that the old building only has a limited capacity despite the vast increase in the number of students during the past few years.

The authority, in the past suffered from two main problems, namely the limited area and the supply process. Therefore a special plan was put for the next five-years to maintain the present buildings and to establish the new complex building at the grounds of the Industrial College.

On the issue of providing the country with manpower and the enhan-

cement of educational levels, he stressed that the issue of Kuwaitisation requires more than one five year plan to achieve balance, and Kuwaitisation of posts.

He expressed optimism at the authority plans in the Kuwaitisation process and said that the authority will have clear accomplishments in the manpower market in the future.

Regarding taking part in strengthening the role of women workers in the manpower market, he indicated that the main problem lies in the fact that some female students refuse to join

particular specialities. Most female students place higher interests in joining the Fundamental Education College at the authority the official said and commented that this may be referred to the situation in the Kuwaiti society which does not accept both men and women together in the same job. He hoped that female students will extend their role into other specialities like nursing and health sciences. Society views towards scientific certificates will not change unless government changed its view towards it, Modhaf commented.

Islamic fund Kuwait contributes \$6 million

JEDDAH, Dec 2. (Kuna): The Secretariat General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference today announced that Kuwait has contributed an amount of SR9,375,000 equivalent to US\$2,500,000 in favour of the Islamic Solidarity Fund, which brings the total of the amounts paid by Kuwait to SR22,500,000 equivalent to US\$6,000,000.

Therefore, Kuwait has fully honoured its pledges of contributions for the funds as well as for its Waqf.

In this respect, the secretariat general expressed its sincere appreciation to HH the Amir of Kuwait, and current chairman of the OIC for this gesture which is a testimony of His Highness' commitment towards the attainment of the objectives enshrined in the charter of the OIC.

The Islamic Solidarity Fund was established by the second Islamic summit held in Lahore, Pakistan, in 1974.

Moreover, the fund undertakes any action that is likely to raise the standard of Muslims throughout the world in all aspects of life.

It also encourages scientific and technological research, contributes to alleviate the effects of disasters, natural catastrophes and crises and endeavours for the propagation of Islamic Da'wa.

Furthermore, it financially supports religious, cultural and social communities; promotes the protection of Muslim youth and contributes to the building of mosques, schools, hospitals and clinics.

Thus, the secretariat general calls upon the other donor countries to give generous donations for the fund with a view to strengthen its resources and enables it to realise the noble objectives for which it was established.

Aids seminar

KUWAIT, Dec 2. (Kuna): Planning Minister and Acting Health Minister Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi inaugurates at the medicine faculty tomorrow a training seminar on social and psychological awareness for Aids victims.

The seminar targets spreading awareness on physical needs of Aids victims and those worrying about contracting the fatal disease.

The seminar also targets supplying participants with advanced information on and means of contracting the Aids virus in addition to methods of prevention.



Mubarak receives Sheikh Salem

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak met Kuwaiti Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah at the Presidential Palace in Cairo yesterday. Sheikh Salem is in Cairo with other Arab counterparts to attend a three-day conference to discuss a joint Arab strategy to combat drugs and terrorism.

Kuwait calls for scientific strategy to assist development

Technology conference opens

KUWAIT, Dec 2. (Kuna): Kuwait has called for working out a scientific strategy to assist the Islamic countries in their drive for technological development.

Addressing the opening session of the conference on new technologies and the development of the Muslim world on behalf of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, Higher Education Minister Ali Abdulla Al Shamlan underscored that no civilised achievement could be realised without making use of science and technology.

"Also scientific awareness can not become a national phenomenon unless we manage to link it with the legacy and genuine civilisation of our Islamic nation to enable it to bail out of its isolation and contribute to contemporary scientific works," Shamlan told the conference.

He underlined that the Islamic countries had suffered a great deal from their scientific and technological backwardness, a matter that led foreign countries to control their capabilities and block their advancement.

Plan

"Therefore, as Muslims, we have to lay down a scientific plan beside our economic, social and cultural ones to assist in preparing the effective power needed for civilised progress," he stressed.

Shamlan saluted HH the Amir for patronising the conference in his capacity as chairman of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC). He said in that capacity the Amir had made his historical initiative at the United Nations for dropping loans interests and cancelling some of the foreign loans on the poorer countries.

"Dictated by his duties as chairman of the OIC, the Amir had also used his good offices to improve the conditions of the Bulgarian Muslims and travelled for thousands of miles to meet his friends the heads of state all over the world in the interest of the Muslim nation," Shamlan added.

He also recalled the Amir's condemnation of the criminal attempt by the Zionist regime when it endeavoured to lay the foundation stone of what it called reconstruction of Solomon's Temple at Al Aqsa mosque in Holy Jerusalem.

Propaganda

President of the Islamic Academy of Sciences Dr Munir Qadi thanked the Amir for patronising the conference and for his abiding interest in science and technology.

"We feel fortunate to have the patronage of HH Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, Amir of Kuwait and Chairman of the Organisation of Islamic Conference. We are fully conscious of HH's abiding interest in science and technology and the concern of HH as chairman of the OIC for its speedy promotion and propagation in the Islamic world," Qadi said.

He said the Islamic world had a glorious past in terms of scientific and technological achievements but its present science and technology capability is far from satisfactory.

"The size of science in many Muslim countries is so small that it can hardly make any impact on their socio-economic structure or their development process. It is, therefore, essential that the Muslim countries try and build bigger and better base of science and technology to enable them to meet their development needs and requirements," he added.

He said a consequence of world-wide research and development, a number of new technologies have emerged on the world scene and are expected to revolutionise the entire life style of man in the future.

The conference has been jointly co-sponsored by the Islamic Academy of Sciences and Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences.

Addressing the conference, Jordan's Education Minister Adnan Badran elaborated on the importance of modern technologies and their impact on the economic and social development.

More phone lines to be available before 1995

KUWAIT, Dec 2. (Kuna): New telephone exchanges will be established next year in Kuwait's areas of Salwa, Southern Surrah, Western Fintas and Qurain at an initial capacity of 20,000 lines each, according to a senior telecommunications official here today.

Assistant undersecretary of the Ministry of Communication in charge of technical affairs, Engineer Salman Al Roumy said that the coming year's plans also include an experimental project for the integrated services digital network (ISDN) and modification of the systems of ground stations to operate according to the new digital system.

Roumy, in an exclusive interview with Kuna, indicated that the ministry's next five-year plan envisages extension of telephone services to the majority of citizens such that 25 lines will be made available for every 100 persons and the number of subscribers would increase from the present 350,000 to 640,000 by the end of the plan in 1995.

Efficiency will also be upgraded to reduce incidents of failure to the least possible, the official said, adding that the ministry will also execute a project for wireless telephone system.

Speaking about reducing the cost of usage of satellite lines, Roumy said a suitable means recommended by ArabSat is to make more use of the satellite channel, now standing at 1100 circuits to reach 1600 circuits under the new system. He indicated that this would reduce costs by some 30 per cent and reflect on charges paid by the regular customer.

As a preliminary step, the system will be applied in contacts with a specific number of countries through Umm Al Aish satellite ground station as of 1992. These countries, he explained, are Japan (7 circuits), Britain (23), France (8) and Italy (10) which will later be followed in 1993 by Egypt (5), Jordan (5), Iran (22) and the US (13).

Malaysia route

KUWAIT, Dec 2. (Kuna): Kuwait and Malaysia have agreed to open an air route between them to be flown by national carriers of the two countries, according to a statement by the Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC).

KAC will launch the route Sunday under the accord which stipulates that the two sides would jointly operate one flight a week between Kuwait and Kuala Lumpur via Bangkok.

New buildings for MEW, MPW in 1990

KD450m spent on motorways

THE two buildings of the Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) and the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) to be built during the beginning of the new year, will also contain the permanent premises of the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI), the National Centre of Microfilm and Computer and the postal services complex, according to a senior official.

Speaking on the importance of the project, Abdul Rahman Al Houti, minister of public works, disclosed that the site of the MPW and MEW measures 1,36,100 square metres. The project consists of the buildings of the two ministries, car parks for the two ministries and the joint building of services for the ministries as well as gardens.

PACI premises will be built on an area of 40,128 square metres and will contain the main premises of administration, computer centre, central registration office and a branch for civil registration services for people in the close housing areas.

The National Centre for Microfilm and Computer Project will be executed on an area of 48,813 square metres and will include the main premises, a car park, cafeteria and restaurant with lecture and training halls, Houti said.

Requirements of the project for the Ministry of Education are

still being studied by the Ministry of Public Works. The project is envisaged to be undertaken in the government area in south of Surrah and to be built on an area of 40,000 square metres. The project has a two-year planning schedule and a three-year execution period. The complex of postal services will be built on an area of 77,604 square metres and will be specialised for the automatic sorting of letters, the official said.

No losses

Meanwhile, Ali Al Abdulla, the chief engineer of roads at the MPW has stressed that no losses were incurred due to the delay of the project at the First Ring Road. The ministry withdrew the project from the original contractor as he was not able to continue the works of the project. The ministry has contracted with a new contractor to complete the project and work commenced last June.

The original contractor has borne all additional costs, including fines levied for the delay in the project, according to the terms of the contract and consequently there has been no loss to the ministry, the official said.

He added that the ministry has built about 280 kilometres of motorways that included 105 flyovers at a total cost of KD450 million. Work on the Surrah

flyover is expected to begin at the start of the new year and to be completed next summer.

Abdulla explained that the ministry contracts with consultative offices for designing of some grand projects because such projects need special experts like projects of motorways, Bubyah Causeway (bridge) and Sibbiyah Causeway Project. He added that engineers of the ministry work in co-ordination with these special experts on all such related grand projects.

Commenting on the bad odour emanating from the sewage treatment stations, Abdulla said that this problem is caused by many factors — specially the high temperature and high concentration of sewage water. The problem is further compounded through the indiscriminate usage of sewage networks by disposing solid materials and other greasy substances such as lubricants, used vehicle oils and other such substances.

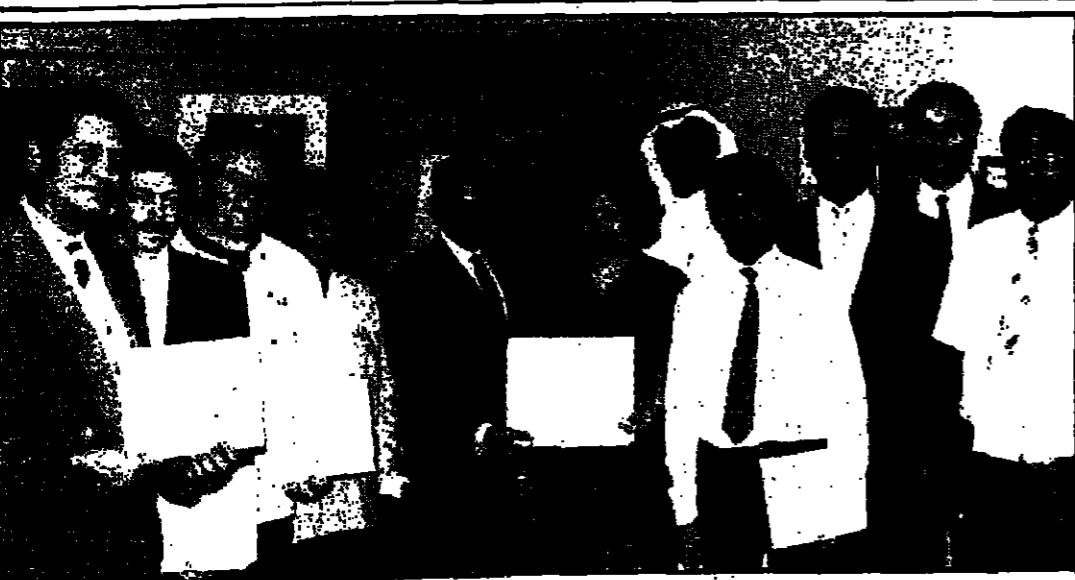
However, in a move designed to redress this problem, the ministry carried out a project of sewage network at a cost of KD6.8 million and has positively addressed the reduction of foul odours from the networks. Presently, the ministry is undertaking a television survey and cleaning works in a further move to reduce these odours.



Kuna board meets

The board of directors of the Kuwait News Agency held its first meeting yesterday after endorsement of the new formation by the cabinet.

The meeting was headed by Board Chairman and Kuna Director-General Barges Hmoud Al Barges who welcomed the two new members Fahad Yusef Al Duwairi and Khalid Suleiman Al Jarallah who replaced Faisal Al Majid and Dr Farouk Al Omar.



Inter-action management programme

Holiday Inn Kuwait recently held an inter-action management programme, attended by the department heads of the hotel. The programme was designed to give an opportunity to supervisors to build up their skills through practical sessions.

Shown in the picture are the participants with the General Manager Fethi Abdennader.

Families attacked

FAMILIES enjoying their Wednesday and Thursday weekend at the Green Island and other utilities of the Water Front Project were manhandled by a group of juvenile delinquent boys, according to a local daily.

According to reports, the problem began when the boys began "passing rude remarks and gestures" at girls who were with their families. The women folk intervened with the boys in an effort to prevent their unruly behaviour which resulted in the "hooligans" getting violent and abusive.

Subsequently, other people had to intervene to stop the juveniles from carrying their unruly behaviour any further.

In the scuffle, one boy was seriously injured and six suffered minor injuries.

Governorate councils Service levels upgrade

THE Governor of Jabra Sheikh Ali Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah has said that the coming stage will witness a number of substantial developments in the service level offered by the five governorates following the establishment of the governorate councils.

He told a local daily that there was no intention to annex any new area to the governorate and that the annexation of Doha and Sulatibikhat had been effected a short while back.

The new stage working programme for the governorate is still under planning. Every care is being taken to ensure successful implementation whereby all citizens would be able to benefit from this programme. In the interim, work will continue in line with the current working programme until a final formula of the proposed new one has been approved, the governor said.

He disclosed that the Higher Governorates Council chaired by the Crown Prince and Prime Minister had discussed the councils' budgets and formed working committees to determine the required budgetary allocations. The governor commented that HH Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah paid great interest to the need to uplift the performance level at each governorate to render better services to citizens.

The governorate personnel paid inspection visits to different areas to find out about the problems of citizens and devise effective solutions. Additionally, a series of meetings were held in the governorate to follow up the consideration of issues brought to the governorate's attention through the Citizen's Office at the governorate.

More effort required for Arab security co-operation: Morad

DR FAROUQ MORAD, director of the Riyadh-based Arab Centre for Security Studies and Training has said that the meetings on joint security work have been reflecting harmonious understanding and identical views.

He told a local daily that the holding of such conferences inspired the establishment of the Arab Council of interior ministers and also of this centre, while continually fostering co-operation ties between the Arab countries in the field of

security.

He added that more effort was needed to make further achievements in the field of Arab security co-operation, calling for the need to make major decisions to ensure the implementation of all recommendations adopted at these conferences.

Morad pointed out that all issues tackled at these conferences were related to furthering co-operation, co-ordination

and regulation of joint Arab security action, and that discussion always dealt with identical views and harmonious understanding of all issues under consideration.

He said that the centre had prepared a working programme, already endorsed by the board of directors, which would continue the efforts led by the centre in its various fields of specialisations and further strengthen ties with those who had made positive contributions to the

development of its working programmes.

Commitment

The new working programme was also aimed at deepening the centre's commitment to all science oriented activities, in and outside the Arab world, and accurate evaluation was an essential requirement before decision was taken as to what direction the centre would take to pursue its goals at the outset of each year, Morad said.

He pointed out that the evaluation process would also help point out shortcomings and existing negatives whereby quick effort and speedy measures would be taken to rectify or adjust defective efforts, with an eye on better performance and more achievement.

He said that the higher-studies programmes were offered in security science at the higher institute, which included training at the training centre involving research and study activities.

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T-28 bomber planes used by army rebels in an attack on the Presidential Palace. (Reuter wirephoto)



Wounded government troops inspect damage caused by Philippine jet fighters which mistakenly bombed their convoy in Manila.

Philippine coup attempt surprises Washington

WASHINGTON, (Reuter): The latest coup attempt against Philippine President Corazon Aquino occurred when many US experts thought she had weathered her worst challenges and raises questions about the extent to which Aquino may still depend on US support.

American analysts say Aquino's request for US aircover to help put down troops is likely to be criticised in the Philippines, where pressure has grown for her to show more independence from the United States.

But in the long term, the analysts said US President George Bush's decision to leap to the defence of an elected government is expected to strengthen ties between the two countries — and US prospects for a new agreement extending its right to keep vital military bases in the Philippines.

US officials said on Friday troops loyal to Aquino appeared to be winning their battle against military rebels with the help of air cover by US F-4 Phantom jets ordered by Bush.

About 1,000 rebel troops, believed to be led by cashiered army Colonel Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, early on Friday began the boldest challenge to overthrow Aquino since she swept to power in 1986 in a popular revolt that ended the 20-year rule of Ferdinand Marcos.

Honasan was also behind the last serious revolt in 1987. The latest uprising is the sixth against Aquino.

Larry Niksch, an Asia expert with the Library of Congress who like US officials had concluded that threats to Aquino had abated and Honasan's threat faded, revised that view on Friday.

While Aquino has taken steps to improve life for the armed forces with better pay, equipment and other reforms, "it may be we have concluded the situation had changed too much," Niksch said. "Obviously discontent has remained within the military."

Under Aquino the country has restored democracy, improved its economy and made gains fighting a communist insurgency.

But increasingly there have been complaints about a revival of the corruption prevalent in the Marcos years, a surge of bureaucratic incompetence and continuing rampant poverty.

In addition, many Filipinos believe the government could do a better job fighting the communists.

And doubts remain about the

Bush's help could weaken Cory finally

MANILA, (Reuter): US President George Bush is unlikely to get much thanks in the Philippines by saving President Corazon Aquino so openly from the country's latest attempted coup.

The dramatic US intervention in the Philippine military coup, providing air cover to knock out rebel planes, signalled the defeat for the sixth attempted takeover against Aquino.

But its political cost could be heavy for the former US colony which is still trying to stamp out its image as a country that cannot solve its own problems without help from Washington, political analysts said.

For one, they said, the help from Bush — although requested by Aquino — was certain to strengthen Washington's hand in this month's scheduled talks on the future of US military bases in the Philippines.

Manila was expected to press strongly for extra compensation for the bases, but Aquino's position now appears compromised, press commentators and diplomats said.

Analysts said Washington's rescue operation would also give fresh ammunition to a 20-year communist insurgency that has branded the president as a US puppet, as well as to the conservative right-wing political opposition already girding up for the 1992 presidential election.

The coup attempt, which has killed at least 26 people and wounded scores of others, happened at a time when Aquino seemed most politically vulnerable.

Once immensely popular, Aquino has come under mounting attack from both big business and the middle class, her chief support, for failing to solve basic problems like the daily power blackouts and a crumbling public transport system.

A day before the mutineers launched their sixth and most serious bid for power, Aquino sharply raised petrol prices, sparking street demonstrations by leftist and moderate workers.

The unions have called for a nationwide strike next week in protest against the price hikes.

The revolt showed how sharply Aquino's popularity had eroded since her triumphant accession to power nearly four years ago as the saviour of Philippine democracy.

In the dark hours of the coup attempt, the international community rallied round Aquino to condemn the rebel forces, expressing concern at its possible disastrous effect on the economy.

Filipinos who thrust Aquino into the presidency in a popular revolt in 1986 remained largely passive even as rebel soldiers grabbed one military base after another.

"Although it is not clear what their (the rebels') intentions are, I would not mind a change of government," a public school teacher said in a radio interview.

"I am fed up with Cory's government, with her cabinet members who know nothing about running their offices,"

Manila newspapers on Saturday criticised Aquino's decision to call for US military help to quell the rebellion.

Popular columnist Max Soliven of the Philippine Star newspaper called the US intervention a blow to Manila's self-respect. Editor Luis Mauricio of the Malaya daily said it closed Philippine options in the bases talks.

The US lease on Clark Air Base, Subic Naval Base and four smaller facilities expires in 1991. Washington wants the lease extended, saying the bases are vital to regional security. The planes providing air support for Aquino operated out of Clark.

A strong bloc in the Philippine Senate, which must approve any new bases agreement, has demanded the removal of the bases.

"Any doubt about President Aquino having closed her options on the military bases has been erased," Mauricio wrote in his column.

"The 1947 military bases agreement will be renewed... all according to script."

In a country where communist assassins have killed six Americans in ambushes in the past three years, the Bush intervention increases the threat to American lives, analysts said.

ability of Aquino, widow of assassinated opposition politician Benigno Aquino, to govern.

The state Department said

most of these problems date from

Marcos day and need time to

reverse. But analysts said all of

them apparently contributed to the

rebels' disaffection.



A comrade looks at a dead government soldier while a military jeep burns after Philippine jets mistakenly bombed a convoy in Manila. (Reuter wirephoto)

Rebels robbed of advantage

US air support upset timetable

MANILA, (AP): US warplanes' support of government forces upset the mutineers' timetable and deprived them of an advantage that might have meant victory in their attempt to topple President Corazon Aquino.

US warplanes provided air cover Friday for pro-government forces at a point when rebellious officers seemed close to toppling the 4-year-old Aquino administration.

In coup attempts in January 1987 and again the following August, mutineers had tried but failed to seize Villamor Air Base and the naval air station at Sangley Point. This time, they succeeded.

The two installations gave the mutineers access to aircraft, enabling them to rocket and strafe the presidential palace, two major military installations and to knock out the only government television station which was broadcasting Friday.

An airfield also would have enabled the rebels to fly their own reinforcements quickly from southeastern Luzon and Mindanao, where opposition to the government is strong.

By noon (0400 GMT), the rebels had blasted Malacanang Palace twice and Camp Crame, headquarters of the Philippine Constabulary, and Camp Aguinaldo, headquarters of the armed forces, a total of six times.

The psychological impact was great. Presidential staffers contacted by telephone panicked.

Thomas Reckford, a senior fellow with the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, said it was unclear what the rebels expected to gain since they,

apparently had issued no demands and no political figures

joined their ranks.

"It seems like a pathetically

weak mutiny," Reckford said. "I

don't think it's a fundamental

threat to the democratic process

in the Philippines but it's going to

hurt the image of the government

The attacks also cut Aquino off from her people — one

attack knocked off the air the only operating television station, depriving Aquino of her conduit to the Filipino public.

Rebel sources, contacted at the height of the attacks, said they were convinced of victory and were simply waiting for Aquino to resign. All that changed with US intervention.

Aquino said the government decided to ask for US military support by noon, when her situation appeared desperate. The presence of US Air Force F-4 fighter

bombers put an end to rebel air raids.

During the lull, Philippine F-5 jets raided Sangley Point and destroyed the planes which had attacked the palace.

The halt in air operations also gave the government time to rush in reinforcements from nearby regions of central and southern Luzon island, where commanders were loyal to Aquino.

When the coup attempt was launched early Friday, it appeared that the government could count on relatively few troops based in the capital.

Reporters saw few pro-government checkpoints or patrols on the streets during the crucial, early hours of the coup attempt, when the rebels were rushing units into the capital.

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patrols on the streets during the crucial, early hours of the

coup attempt, when the rebels were rushing units into the

capital.

Scene

Hell of a bloody show

Shoot it out

MANILA, Dec 2, (AP): Spectators who watched the life-and-death struggle yesterday between mutineers and government forces urged both sides to shoot it out to the last man, just like in the movies.

Hundreds watched atop the south superhighway overpass as three T-28 aircraft and a Sikorsky helicopter bombarded President Corazon Aquino's palace and suburban military headquarters.

As the vintage planes and the Vietnam-era gunship approached their targets and fired, the crowd would cheer as if it were all a show.

"Wow. That was a great shot," said a cigarette vendor, Julio Torres, pointing toward the presidential palace. "But it would really be better if there would be a dogfight shot on, just like in the movies."

Hours later, Philippine Air Force F-5 jets chased the renegade aircraft out of the Manila area and later destroyed them on the ground at an air station in Sangley point in Cavite province, just across Manila bay.

In the afternoon, US F-4 warplanes, after getting the nod from US President George Bush to assist Mrs Aquino's government, joined in patrolling the air in search of other hostile aircraft.

"I wish there could be a live gunbattle here," added a 9-year-old boy. "I haven't seen one although I've watched a lot of war movies."

Early yesterday, rebellious marines from neighbouring Fort Bonifacio took over the suburban Philippine Air Force headquarters, Villamor Air Base.

And almost simultaneously, crowds from a squatter colony outside the two camps began pouring into the overpass to see rebel soldiers set up road blocks and prepare perimeter defences in anticipation of a counter-attack.

While the rebel officers barked last minute instructions to troops, young kids and teenage boys milled around them to examine their bandoliers of bullets, automatic weapons, and rocket-firing rifles.

Others gingerly knocked on the bodies of two US-made V-150 armoured personnel carriers and two World War II-Vintage landing vehicle tanks guarding the overpass linking the two camps or point to their machineguns and cannons.

The hours passed and onlookers began to swell and mix with mutinous troops.

At first light, passenger jeeps were zooming past rebel tanks as they crossed the overpass. School children, office and factory workers were walking around mutineers' positions. Newspaper delivery boys on bikes were briskly selling early editions.

By mid-morning, soda, peanut and duck egg vendors, and foreigners, had joined the crowd.

Indian businessman Shivinder Singh, his wife, daughter and another relative, posed for souvenir shots with mutineering soldiers.

"I think this happens here all the time," said Mrs Singh, who refused to give her first name. "Life goes on here, even with the coups."

Mrs Aquino's government has survived at least six coup attempts since ousting 20-year-ruler Ferdinand Marcos in 1986. Marcos died in exile in Hawaii in September.

And Cory Aquino and dis-

courage some businessmen from

investing there."

Aquino, strongly backed by

the United States, has been walk-

ing a fine line, trying to maintain

good ties with Washington while

breaking away from the colonial

relationship.



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Key times in the coup attempt

MANILA, Dec 2, (AP): Here is a list of key times in the coup attempt against President Corazon Aquino:

Wednesday
10 pm (1400 GMT): 13 mutineers sabotage military transmitters in Tagaytay city 50 kms (30 miles) south of Manila.

Thursday
8 am (0000 GMT): Chief of Staff Renato De Villa arrests, interrogates those involved in the power sabotage. He later announces the shutdown is part of a plot to oust President Corazon Aquino to be launched Dec 1.

Friday
1:20 am (1720 GMT): Rebel scout rangers overpower guards at Villamor Air Base of the Philippine Air Force and later surround private television station ABS-CBN and government television station.

2:55 am (1855 GMT): Firing at Villamor between rebels and pro-government forces. Rebels fire mortars at the 205th helicopter wing headquarters, setting it on fire.

4:00 am (2000 GMT): Rebels occupy two television stations.

6:40 am (2240 GMT): Rebel T-28 planes rocket the presidential palace, hit the press room. Government troops open fire.

6:55 am (2255 GMT): Palace is rocketed again.

7:40 am (2340 GMT): President Aquino vows in a radio address to "smash this naked attempt" to take power.

8:30 am (0030 GMT): Ship lands in Cebu city with 400 mutinous soldiers, armoured personnel carriers.

9:05 am (0105 GMT): Rebel spokesman airs statement over radio DZXL but is cut off the air after asking for prayers for "those leaders" pretending to be leaders.

9:50 am (0150 GMT): Government helicopter fires at rebel-controlled government station; rebel plane fires rocket at Channel 9 airing government statements.

10:00 am (0200 GMT): Rebel Sikorsky helicopters bomb camps Aguineldo and Crame, headquarters of the Armed Forces and Philippine Constabulary Headquarters three times, set Crame on fire.

12:00 pm (0400 GMT): Rebel T-28 planes bomb Crame second time, followed by a third attack a half hour later.

12:30 pm (0430 GMT): Mrs Aquino decides to ask help from President George Bush for military assistance in quelling coup attempt.

1:15 pm (0515 GMT): Philippine fighter planes, under cover of US jets, attack rebel-controlled Sangley point, destroying eight planes.

4:00 pm (0800 GMT): Government forces retake Sangley, 3 killed.

5:20 pm (0920 GMT): Government troops retake Aguineldo, 320 rebels surrender.

6:00 pm (1000 GMT): De Villa announces in a radio interview coup attempt is over.

6:15 pm (1015 GMT): Mrs. Aquino makes final statement on radio: "enemies routed but not yet vanquished."

10:00 pm (1400 GMT): Rebels pull out from government television.

10:30 pm (1430 GMT): Rebels vacate Villamor.

Bush keeping close watch on Philippines

Soviets criticise American interference

MARSAXLOKK BAY, Malta, Dec 2, (Agencies): President George Bush, from his shipboard summit headquarters, has been keeping a close watch on an attempted coup in the Philippines after sending US jet fighters to help besieged President Corazon Aquino.

Bush ordered F-4 fighters from Clark Air Force base into the skies over the Philippines to provide air cover for pro-government forces. A contingent of 100 marines was also sent from a US base in the Philippines to help protect the US embassy compound in Manila.

"We are hopeful the situation will be contained," Bush told reporters

soon after arriving in Malta for the weekend summit with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The Soviet Union today again warned the United States against interference in the Philippines.

"We unambiguously speak out against interference in the affairs of any state," a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman was quoted as saying by the official news agency Tass.

The report said the unidentified spokesman was responding to a question about US involvement in the Philippines battle.

On Friday a Soviet official in Malta for the superpower summit cautioned the United States against interference in the Philippines, a vital US ally in Asia.

"As for expectations of possible interference by the United States in the Philippines, we are against such interference," Arkady Maslennikov, head of information of the Supreme Soviet (parliament), told a news conference in Valletta.

In Washington, Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams said that no US planes had "fired any shots or intercepted any rebel aircraft." Rear Adm. Edward Shearer of the defence intelligence agency said "the government forces seem to be prevailing" in the struggle.

Late yesterday a senior defence official said that "trends generally favour the government" but that fighting was continuing as daylight approached in Manila.

Bush ordered the air support to help protect the Aquino government, while he was still en route from Washington aboard the presidential airplane. The quick help came after Aquino spoke by telephone with Vice President Dan Quayle.

A Bush administration official said the US fighters were authorised to fire only if rebel planes attempted to take off from Philippines air bases, and then only after repeated warnings.

Bush's decision won strong bipartisan support from members of the US Congress. George Mitchell, the Senate's Democratic majority leader, called it "prudent and in our national interest."

The President received updates on the situation from his national security adviser, Brent Scowcroft. Bush was told government forces had retaken one air field and that trouble spots were being cleaned up, but the coup attempt was still in progress, White House Press Secretary Martin Fitzwater said in a statement.

"It is fair to say that the situation is serious," Secretary of States James A. Baker III said. "We have provided some air support, air cover."

In Washington, State Department deputy spokesman Richard Boucher said Americans should defer travel to the Philippines in view of the unrest. All Americans already in the Philippines are being asked to remain in their homes and hotels, he said.

Boucher said there are about 106,000 US citizens in Manila and about 8,500 in Cebu, the second largest city. No figures were available on the number of Americans elsewhere in the country.

Bush's decision to grant US military aid came just hours after rebels bombed the presidential palace in Manila in the most serious effort to oust Aquino since she came to power in 1986.

Before a session with Maltese Prime Minister Eddie Fenech Adami, Bush said Aquino "sounded fine" when she took a telephone call from Quayle in Washington.

At the same time, however, the CIA reported that some senior Filipino officials were worried that entire segments of their armed forces would fail to "fight effectively" against the rebels, an administration source said.



Salvador Laurel (left) and Homobono Adaza expose their views on the rebel-led coup attempt in Manila. (Reuters wirephoto)

Laurel denies coup role

American air assistance condemned

HONG KONG, Dec 2, (Reuters): The leader of the Philippines' main opposition party said in Hong Kong today he played no direct part in an attempted coup against the Aquino government but declined to condemn the rebel action outright.

He also condemned the American air assistance which helped government forces pin rebels to air bases they took in the first hours of the attempt.

"I took no part in the events of the last three days," Vice President Salvador Laurel, who arrived in the British colony yesterday from a private visit to London, said in an interview.

President Corazon Aquino in Manila earlier accused opposition leaders of initiating and financing yesterday's abortive coup which collapsed after US President George Bush ordered air support of loyalist troops.

Laurel, head of the Nacionalista Party, condemned what he called armed US intervention in internal Philippine affairs which he said ran against the

spirit and grain of the constitution: "I believe that internal matters should be resolved exclusively by Filipinos."

Laurel said he did not know which army faction was behind the attempt but his sources in the Philippines informed him that 75 per cent of the military backed it.

Philippine Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos had said cashiered army Colonel Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan appeared to be behind the attempted takeover.

"I think Aquino would have a hard time matching the popularity of Gringo," Laurel said, but added: "I cannot say I openly or covertly support the Honasan group."

Asked if he would serve under a military government, the vice-president said: "It would depend on the circumstance — if it was good for the country, if it would avert civil war, anything that would protect the Filipino people I would do."



Two civilian by-standers slowly drag a government soldier to safety after he was injured by a Philippine jet fighter. (Reuters wirephoto)



Enrile denies accusation

Opposition leader Juan Ponce Enrile (right) denies accusation of President Corazon Aquino of being behind the abortive coup in the Philippines. At left is former labour minister Blas Ople. (Reuters wirephoto)

Last stand in Makati

16 killed, 100 wounded today

(Continued from Page 1)

over Makati, roaming through affluent shops, taking over the intercontinental hotel and taking up positions on several skyscrapers.

They blocked off a major street with commandeered trucks and appeared ready to make a stand there. One mutineer told reporters his group had changed the colour of their unit shoulder patches from white to red "because red is the colour of blood and we want to shed blood for our cause."

As the fighting began this morning, two Philippine Air Force F5 jets accidentally rocketed a government position at daybreak, killing three soldiers and a civilian and wounding more than 20 other troops. Military officials blamed the error on poor communication.

US officials said American jets, which had buzzed over the capital yesterday to prevent rebel planes from becoming airborne, stopped the air support manoeuvres this morning at the request of the Aquino government. The officials said the US jets did not use force at any time.

The New York Times quoted a Pentagon official as saying Aquino had asked American forces to be available to evacuate her from the presidential palace, if necessary. But a spokesman for Aquino flatly denied the report.

"She has said she would stay in the palace until this thing is over," said Lourdes Siyanco, Aquino's deputy press secretary.

Early today stray rocket fire from a Sikorsky helicopter hit a radio station vehicle, wounding a reporter. A stray bomb also hit a Red Cross ambulance ferrying wounded soldiers, officials said.

This morning's intense fighting centred in the swank white plains suburb where hundreds of rebels holed up in bungalows behind the armed forces headquarters at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City.

Fires broke out as the government bombed the area in what Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos said was an attempt to drive rebels away from the populated suburb and prevent house-to-house fighting.

The mutineers returned fire with assault rifles, and rebel armoured cars attacked government troops defending the military headquarters. The

rebels, with belts of bullets slung across their chests, were armed with M-14 rifles, mortars and bazookas. An V150 armoured personnel carrier was hidden in the garden of one house and a jeep was in the garage of another.

The mutineers looked haggard and were appealing to residents for food.

"If there is no fighting, it's okay," rebel trooper Edgar Santos told a radio interviewer. "We're very hungry. We just had coffee and bread. We did not eat lunch or dinner. Please send us food."

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, an Aquino stalwart, said he would organize neighbourhood militias to defend the government if police were unable to rout the mutineers.

US sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the presence of armed rebels in an area where many US citizens live had alarmed the US embassy. They said US officials had privately asked churches frequented by US citizens to cancel Sunday services.

Radio station DZRH broadcast a statement by the reform the armed forces movement, suspected leaders of Friday's coup attempt demanding Aquino resign to pave the way for a referendum within three months of a new form of government.

Communist rebels and Vice-President Salvador Laurel's centre-right opposition party also sharply criticized Aquino for requesting US air support to halt rebel air attacks.

The communist National Democratic Front called the move a "dangerous precedent for direct US military intervention." Laurel's Nacionalista Party demanded "a full rectification of this brazen violation and insult to the nation's sovereignty."

Meanwhile, the military also announced the capture of a leader of the coup attempt, Lieut Col Tito Legazpi, who allegedly took part in the seizure of a naval air station southwest of Manila yesterday. He also was wanted in connection with Honasan's 1987 coup attempt.

LIPTON TEA CO. DUBAI WIN 3 KILOS OF GOLD WITH LIPTON

— Three Kilos of gold are being offered in Kuwait under an exciting promotion recently launched by Lipton Tea Company.

Three draws are to be held for the lucky winners during the course of the promotion, and in each draw 1 kg of gold is being offered. The draws are to be held on December 6, January 8 and January 29.

The Kuwait promotion synchronises with a similar one currently under way in the rest of the Gulf. There will be 19 prizes in each draw — the first prize being half-a-kilo gold bar, followed by two prizes of 100 gram gold bars, and six prizes of 50 gram bars. Ten prizes will be of the exquisite Noritake tea sets.

We expect a very good response to the promotion, says Mr Deepak Tuteja, Lipton Product Manager. This is the highest prize being offered by any company for a similar promotion. The company is rewarding the consumers for their brand loyalty. One can enter as many times as one wants — the higher the entries the better the chance of winning.

Entry forms are available from newspaper inserts and entry leaflets displayed in Co-ops and Supermarkets. The scheme is very easy to enter. All the entrant needs to do is answer one simple question on the Entry form, attach it to one box top of Lipton Yellow Label 100's Tea Bags Box and mail it to P.O. Box 381, Safat, 13002, Kuwait.

Economy will suffer: Filipinos

(Continued from Page 1)

Filipinos living in Kuwait fear investors will back off due to the unstable situation in their country. Like many others questioned, he said Aquino should take firm, positive action to put down the rebellion.

"The President does not have a real hold on the army; this is her main mistake. She should now act more positively," said one Filipino who wishes to remain anonymous.

"We are not particular about who is in power. We just want stability," said Emong Limdimas. Emong, voicing concern at the brutal turn of events in Manila, said: "The trouble is that everyone wants to be a leader. We just hope things return to normal."

The army faction, led by Gringo, was described as "trouble-makers" by Arthur Reyes.

He said his country is now going through a difficult phase in its history and he wishes to support the government at all times, for the sake of "stability."

Another Filipino, who did not want his name disclosed, blames the US for inciting trouble. "The US are the trouble-makers; we feel only they (US) will benefit from all this."

"The US is playing with us because of the bases. Even Gringo is being supported by the US," said another indignant Filipino. He agrees that several Filipinos find employment due to the US bases but believes that the Philippines should be left alone to sort out its problems.

He, however, firmly stands behind Aquino and urges the government to take swift, firm action to avoid a recurrence of coup attempts.

Manny Insento, hopes and prays to God to "guide the

President." He believes the Philippines government would be able to put down the rebellion and settle the problem. "I have confidence in the President. She'll (take necessary steps) to stop further bloodshed and bring everything under control," said Manny.

"It's time for the government to react and stop this stupidity," said Rod Cerezo.

Rod, wants the government to retaliate firmly. "We're fed up with such attempts (coups). Its high time the President showed us... and the military, she has the right to govern with an iron fist, dictate and order. That's all we're asking from the President."

Filipinos fear the seventh coup attempt against Aquino will set back economic recovery. "Not many foreign investors will have enough confidence to remain in the country," said one Filipino.

Such reactions are not surprising, in view of the shooting that erupted around rebel positions in Manila's business area.

"We just hope things return to normal," added another.

"Aquino will complete her term. She will quell the rebellion and restore peace and order," said a confident Filipino.

"What's new about coup attempts?" asked one Filipino nurse. "They are commonplace. My only concern is my family," she said, voicing fears of many of her compatriots.

Filipinos are making frantic telephone calls to their families back home to find out about their welfare. "I have called them twice today," said Richard Mercado.

"The situation is getting serious; now civilians are dying in the shooting. We are so worried," said Mercado.

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Benjedid

Benjedid re-elected President

ALGIERS, Dec 2. (AP): The three-day extraordinary congress of the ruling National Liberation Front closed yesterday with the unanimous re-election of Chadli Benjedid as its president.

But the congress also nearly doubled the number of members of its Central Committee, electing many hard-liners known for their support for the late leftist President Houari Boumedienne.

Chadli called on the 5,000-member party congress to "close ranks and remain united" against the challenge of at least 12 opposition parties likely to compete for power in general elections scheduled early next year.

The congress heard repeated calls for Algeria's democratisation, but in the end elected a 272-member Central Committee — an increase of 117 — many of whom were known

to be favour hard-line socialism.

Benjedid had announced that the Central Committee members would be individually elected. But, in the end, the congress was presented with a complete list of nominees which was then "elected by acclamation."

Among those taking up positions on the Central Committee are former members of Boumedienne's government, who were removed from power following the president's death in 1978.

Chadli, who was elected to succeed him as Algeria's president, has worked patiently to take Algeria down a more pragmatic, liberal road.

The committee was expected to hold its first meeting in the next few days to elect a new secretary general and make some far-reaching decisions on Algeria's future policies.

The congress met in closed session after its formal opening, and delegates said many of the debates were stormy.

One of the significant actions was eliminating the word "socialism" from the description of government policy. The congress also said Algeria needed "to deepen democratic practice, encourage the private sector, create mixed (half-capitalist) societies and decentralise the process of decision making."

But the words were seen largely as window-dressing, since the Central Committee took on a sharply leftist tone in its membership.

Significant in the congress' cultural resolution was a call for defence of the "Algerian personality" including the teaching of the Arabic language, but insisting "on the necessity to teach foreign languages to permit access to universal culture and civilisation."

MIDEAST BRIEFS

PLO-Israeli talks

KUWAIT, Dec 2. (Kuna): Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak stressed that if Egypt succeeds in holding dialogue between Israel and the PLO, as it did with the United States and the PLO, then this will be a historic event.

In an interview published in a Kuwaiti daily newspaper today he also affirmed that the existence of a legitimate government in Lebanon is "a normal start" toward unifying that country.

Mubarak opined that a dialogue between the Israelis and the Palestinians is better than giving "statements before the press," noting that the dialogue will "not bring any real harm, but on the contrary will lead to better understanding and will come up with something positive."

Soviet Jews

AMMAN, Dec 2. (Kuna): A Jewish agency official was quoted as saying last night that so far 900,000 Soviet Jews have applied for immigration to Israel.

The Israeli television said this has been stated by head of the immigration and absorption department of the Jewish Agency Uri Goren during a tour in Ashdod town.

Gorden said that the municipality of Ashdod in co-operation with the ministry of absorption and the Jewish Agency are aiming to absorb 10,000 new Soviet immigrants within the next few years.

Iraqi envoy

BAHRAIN, Dec 2. (Reuters): An Iraqi official arrived in Bahrain today to brief its leaders on the recent mission to Tehran and Baghdad by UN envoy Jan Eliasson.

The Gulf news agency said Riad Al Qaisi, director of the legal department at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, met Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin Khalifa Al Khalifa.

Qaisi handed the foreign minister a message from Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz on Eliasson's mission, the agency said.

Euro-Arab talks

PARIS, Dec 2. (Kuna): The Euro-Arab dialogue conference, proposed by French President Francois Mitterrand will be held here December 22, sources close to the French Foreign Ministry said.

According to the sources, a preparatory meeting at the level of experts will be held one day before the conference.

The sources added that President Mitterrand will pay a visit to East Germany on Dec 21-22, will return on the inauguration day to deliver a speech at the conference.

Mitterrand has called for this conference in a speech he delivered at the European Parliament in Strasbourg last October 25.

Ahidjo dies

DAKAR, Dec 2. (AP): Ahmadou Ahidjo, the former five-term President of Cameroon, died of a heart attack in the Senegalese capital where he had lived in exile since 1983, his doctor said.

Ahidjo, who ruled his West African state from independence in 1960 until he stepped down voluntarily in 1982, returned to Dakar Nov 9 after being hospitalised in Paris for high blood pressure. He died late Thursday afternoon at his home here.

Ahidjo was elected to his fifth consecutive term as President of Cameroon in April 1980, but then, two years later, unexpectedly announced his retirement. He turned over power to his long-time associate, prime minister Paul Biya, the current President.

Review system

AMMAN, Dec 2. (Kuna): Jordanian Parliament Speaker Sleiman Arar has charged the Jordanian press failed to be neutral during the recent parliamentary election process held in Jordan.

Arar, in his first interview with Jordanian television last night, affirmed that the Jordanian press does not serve the citizens nor the society, indicating to the new systems introduced by former government of Zaid Al Rifai to the Jordanian press.

Gazans protest at brutal killings

13 hurt, curfew in Nablus

OCCUPIED GAZA, Dec 2. (Reuters): Palestinian youths held marches and demonstrations throughout the occupied Gaza Strip today in protest at the killing of four Arabs in an ambush by the Israeli army.

"It's very hot. It's like the early days of the intifada (uprising)," one Arab witness in Gaza told Reuters. "There are mass marches and schoolchildren are protesting and refusing to go to their classes."

Israeli troops wounded 13 Palestinians in Gaza City and the refugee camps of Jabalya and Nureirat when they opened fire to disperse stone-throwing protesters, Arab hospital officials said.

The Israeli military censor lifted a ban on publishing Arab reports that soldiers were wearing Arab dress when they killed the four members of the Black Panthers group in a gunfight in Nablus in the occupied West Bank yesterday.

The ambush was the most spectacular action so far in a drive by the security forces to combat Palestinian activists who attack fellow Arabs suspected of aiding Israeli authorities.

An army spokesman said she knew of no Arab injuries during the demonstrations in the Gaza Strip, but she said the army had imposed a curfew on the Gaza border town of Rafah.

Arab merchants in the occupied territories closed shops in a spontaneous strike in protest at the Nablus killings, residents said. Shops in Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem were already shut in protest at the shooting of two brothers by the army.

In the West Bank, the 120,000 residents of Nablus and three adjoining refugee camps were confined to their homes under an army curfew, the spokeswoman said.

Nablus is a centre of nationalist activity and the leader of a similar group, the Red Eagles, was shot dead in an army raid on his hideout near the city last month.

War may cause exodus

Ethiopia faces famine

ADDIS ABABA, Dec 2. (AP): The government said yesterday that continued war in northern Ethiopia could lead to a mass exodus of civilians and increased famine.

In a statement published in Addis Ababa's newspapers, the Ministry of Information said the "root cause of hunger in northern Ethiopia" is a civil war "to dismember the country."

It said the Tigre people's Liberation Front, which has been in virtual full control of Tigre province since February, "is spreading hunger and famine" to neighbouring provinces.

The Tigrean rebels launched an offensive in late August that has seen them move steadily southward and westward into the provinces of Wollo and Gondar.

The rebel claim they have penetrated as far south as northern Showa, the province that contains the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa.

The United Nations has estimated that 4 million

people are at risk of famine in Eritrea, Ethiopia's northernmost province, Tigre, Wollo and Gondar.

Earlier this week, the government disputed that estimate, saying its surveys show some 1.8 million people at risk of starvation, mostly in Eritrea.

The government's statement yesterday appeared more in line with the UN's estimate of the threat, which it said could equal the 1984-85 Ethiopian famine that killed an estimated one million people.

Neither the government nor any international agency has estimated the number of people displaced so far by the fighting in Tigre, Wollo and Gondar.

The government has been battling secessionist rebels in Eritrea since 1961. The Tigrean rebels took up arms 14 years ago in an effort to topple the government in Addis Ababa.

Norway yesterday approved 2.2 million kroner (\$324,000) in special food and medical aid to Ethiopia, which is threatened by famine.

Arab group accedes to Nam request

Vote on Palestine put off

UNITED NATIONS, Dec 2. (Reuters): Voting on a controversial resolution to upgrade the UN status of the Palestine Liberation Organisation is being postponed until Monday, the Arab League's UN observer said yesterday.

The United States has threatened to withhold its UN dues if the General Assembly upgrades the PLO delegation from that of an observer organisation to an observer state, on a par with countries such as Switzerland and North and South Korea.

The United States is obligated to pay 25 percent of the UN's annual budget of some \$830 million, though it is \$430 million in arrears for this and previous years.

Withholding of its dues would be a severe financial blow to the world body. Also, the United States would stand to lose its UN vote if its arrears equalled contributions owed for the preceding two full years.

Speaking to reporters after a closed-door meeting of Arab ambassadors, Arab League observer Clovis Maksoud said voting on all other drafts dealing with the questions of Palestine and the Middle East would also be put off until Monday.

He said the Arab group was acceding to a request from the Non-Aligned group, which wanted more time to enlist additional support for the resolutions.

"The Arab group, in response to the request of the co-ordinating Committee of the Non-Aligned, has postponed the voting on this (PLO) resolution, as well as all the Middle East and Palestinian items, until Monday afternoon as a final and unequivocal commitment," he said.

Stressing there would be no further postponement, he added: "We are only accommodating our friends in the Non-Aligned Co-ordinating Committee in order that they can support this resolution more firmly."

Countries opposed to enhancing the status of the PLO, or simply anxious not to precipitate a crisis that could damage the United Nations, have been considering a parliamentary manoeuvre under which a motion would be submitted to take no action on the resolution.

A similar device has been used since 1982 to block annual challenges to Israel's UN credentials.

2 Sudan leaders freed from jail

KHARTOUM, Dec 2. (Agencies): A Sudanese newspaper reported today that two leading politicians, jailed after a military coup on June 30, had been released from prison and put under house arrest.

No independent confirmation of the report in the Khartoum daily Sudan Al Hadith was immediately available.

The newspaper said Mohamed Osman Al Mirghani, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, and Dr Hassan Al Turabi, leader of the fundamentalist National Islamic Front, were freed from Kobar prison on Thursday.

It said both politicians had expressed support for the policies of the military junta, which banned political parties and trade unions after it took power from the elected civilian government of Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi. Mahdi is still in jail.

Sudan Al Hadith also reported that an unspecified number of government soldiers wounded in fighting to recapture the town of Karmuk from rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) were airlifted to Khartoum yesterday in a military plane.

The newspaper said the town, on the Ethiopian border, was retaken on Wednesday in a fierce 45-minute battle in which the SPLA suffered heavy losses before the rebels fled across the frontier.

The SPLA, fighting since 1983 in southern Sudan against what it views as domination by the Muslim Arab north, has denied there was any fighting. It said it withdrew from Karmuk, seized on October 28, two days earlier.



Search in Nablus

Israeli soldiers search homes in the Casbah, the ancient market-place in Nablus, which is under curfew following ambush by the Israeli Army on the Palestinian group, Black Panthers. (Reuters wirephoto)

Hassan wins referendum

Moroccan poll delayed

RABAT, Dec 2. (Reuters): Moroccans have almost unanimously backed a call by King Hassan to postpone general elections for two years in a referendum that became a plebiscite on the country's long-running war in Western Sahara.

With around four-fifths of the vote counted, many areas registered 100 per cent support for the king's decision with no region or town apparently lower than 99.8 per cent.

Average turnout in yesterday's poll was put at over 98 per cent of the seven million strong electorate.

Interior Ministry officials said the final overall result could show a very slight difference. It will also include the votes of Moroccans living abroad.

King Hassan said the poll delay was needed to give the United Nations more time to resolve the 13-year desert conflict with Polisario guerrillas by

organising a self-determination referendum of independence or integration with Morocco.

Morocco controls more than four-fifths of the disputed former Spanish colony on the western bulge of Africa.

The inhabitants of the bleak and barren territory are all considered Moroccan citizens and would have voted in the parliamentary elections although the UN vote has not yet confirmed this status.

Opposition groups, eagerly awaiting the elections, all called for a "yes" result after the king linked the issue with the Sahara war.

Since the war began, Moroccans have rallied round the throne and helped King Hassan build powerful national support.

All nine political parties represented in the current Chamber of Representatives (parliament) assert Moroccan sovereignty over the Western Sahara.

Iran-Iraq summit proposed

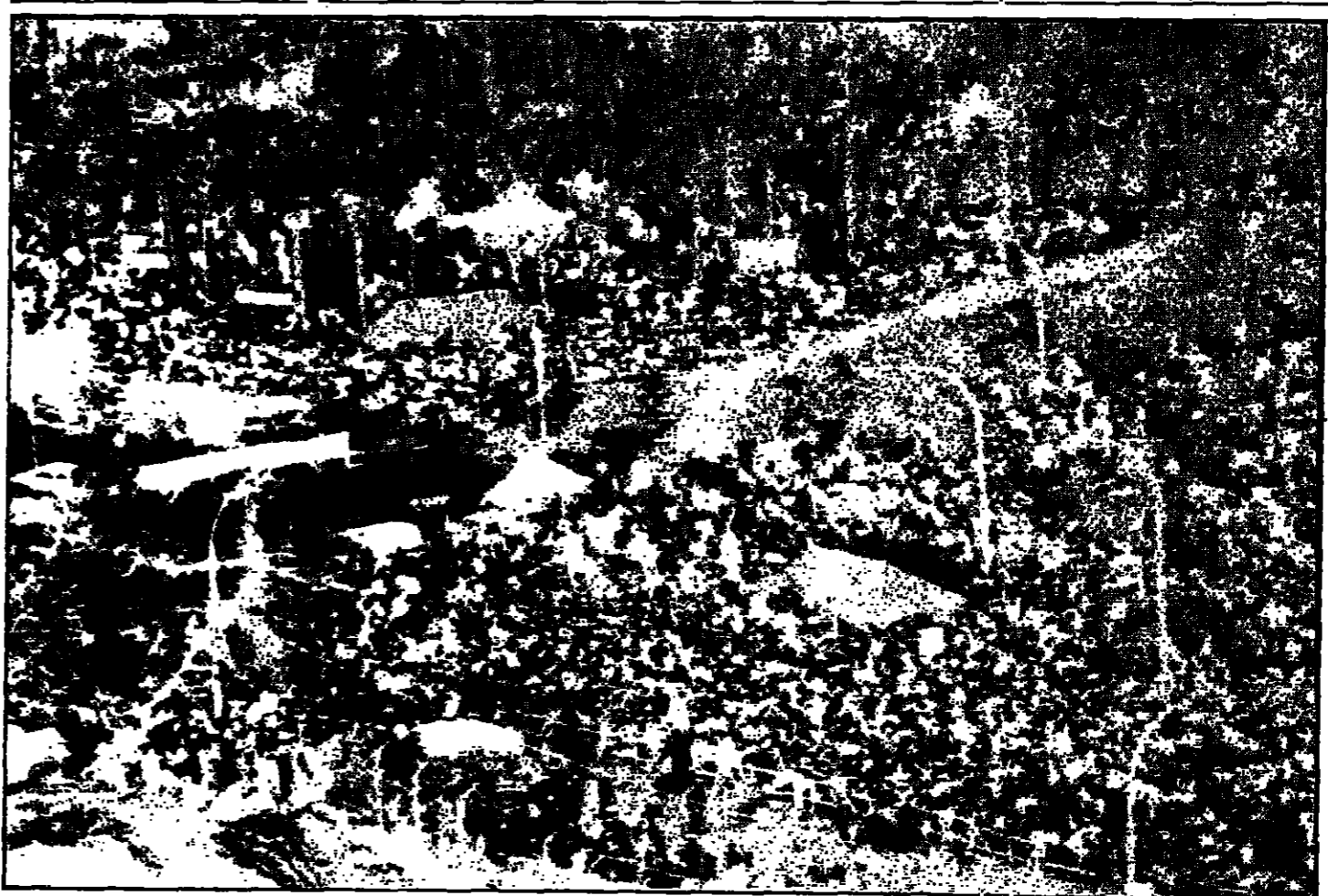
BAGHDAD, Dec 2. (AP): President Saddam Hussein today accused Iran of blocking the repatriation of tens of thousands of prisoners of war still held by the two countries more than 15 months after a United Nations-sponsored ceasefire halted the Gulf war.

He also disclosed that during recent diplomatic shuttle between Baghdad and Tehran by UN envoy Jan Eliasson, Iraq proposed a summit meeting between leaders of the two countries to end the deadlock in the peace talks. He said the Iranians have yet to respond.

But Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency, in a dispatch from the United Nations, called the Iraqi proposals another effort to "divert the general course of the UN-sponsored talks."

The first dispatch from the United Nations did not comment on the proposal, but said, "The upcoming visit to New York by the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq will offer a good opportunity to the secretary general for ridding the talks of its present deadlock."

The two ministers are due in New York in mid-December. Speaking to families of the Gulf war dead, Saddam blasted the Iranian leaders for disregarding the fate of the prisoners of war.



Human shield protects Aoun

A general view taken from air of thousands of demonstrators who gathered around the destroyed presidential palace in East Beirut to support defiant

General Michel Aoun, who refused to step down and give power to Lebanon's new President. (Reuters wirephoto)

UAE celebrates National Day marked by a show of its air, sea, ground forces might

ABU DHABI, Dec 2. (Agencies): UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan has called on his people to arm themselves with science, knowledge and faith, strengthen the federation and move towards the future with confidence.

Marking the eighteenth Independence Day Sheikh Zayed in a speech appealed to Iran and Iraq to hasten the pace towards a peace treaty "so that the Gulf (region) may reap the fruit of stability and security."

He also declared his "undivided support" for the Palestinian uprising against Israel in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, asking leaders of the world to help the Palestinians regain their "rights and stop the barbaric perpetrations of Israel against the Arabs in occupied territory."

He urged the people and leaders of Lebanon to patch up their differences and push their country

towards national reconciliation.

All seven emirates held separate celebrations, with each decorating its main avenues and government buildings and marking the occasion by "lighting the National Day Torches."

Desert drummers and torch bearers marched through streets, along with sword-wielding nationalists in bedouin robes and headgear.

Sheikh Zayed said the country had gained the respect of other nations because of its "balanced and far-sighted" policies. It had made remarkable achievements in different sectors, led by oil and including industry, communications and agriculture.

In an interview published in the magazine, "Diar Al Watan," on the occasion of the National Day, the President reminded his people that despite regional and international turmoil, the UAE had been able to

Soviet tourists arrive

ABU DHABI, Dec 2. (Kuna): Thirty-six Soviet tourists arrived in the United Arab Emirates today for the first time in the history of bilateral relations.

UAE and Soviet Union established diplomatic ties on Nov 13, 1985.

Soviet tourism agency here said that to meet growing requests of Soviet people wanting to visit the Middle East, it will open a regional office in Dubai in 1990.

gain respect and influence in the world due to its prudent policies its far-sightedness and its internal cohesion.

The celebrations in Abu Dhabi were marked by a formation of French-built Mirage 2000 jet fighters highlighting a two-hour military parade.

Sheikh Zayed attended the display of ground, sea

and air weapons at a seafront boulevard and a grandstand packed with an estimated 5,000 spectators.

Flanked on both sides by his top aides and rulers of the various emirates, the UAE leader clapped as the Mirages swooped low overhead. One Mirage drew an ovation with aerobatics, before formations of transport planes, armed helicopters and interceptors paraded past the crowds.

The Mirage 2000s, about six in all, were delivered a few days ago, the first batch of a \$2.2-billion deal involving a total of 36 Mirages and various types of military hardware signed with France in 1985.

The arrival of the Mirages was seen here as sign of improved relations with France, after a disagreement over a demand that the aircraft be equipped with US-built Sidewinder air-to-surface missiles.

Arabs urged to develop space, missile technology

BAGHDAD, Dec 2. (Reuters): A former Egyptian defence minister urged Arab nations today to co-operate in developing space and missile technology to counter Israeli advances in the field.

In an article in the ruling Baath party newspaper Al Thawra, General Mohammed Fawzi said recent Israeli satellite and missile launches were a clear warning for the Arabs.

"Why don't the Arabs concentrate their joint efforts to develop missiles and space technology... the basic technology for both are available in Iraq and Egypt," he wrote.

Foreign reports have said Iraq and Egypt are co-operating with Argentina to produce a long-range ground-to-ground missile.

During the final years of the Gulf war Iraq used missiles with a range of 650 km to attack Tehran and other Iranian cities. It says it has also tested a missile with a range of 900-km.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

OCCI ready to offer technical expertise

India seeks ways to promote trade ties with Kuwait

By M.C. Bose
Business editor

A WELL-KNOWN economist and construction consultant has said Indian construction and engineering industry has already made its impact on the international construction market particularly in the Middle East.

Historical structures of exquisite workmanship are epitome of India's architectural and artistic skills and are constant source of inspiration for the construction companies to reach for greater heights in their professional accomplishments.

Prof. S. Sitaraman, executive director of Overseas Construction Council of India (OCCI) told the Arab Times that Indian companies have secured overseas projects of several billion dollars in the face of severe competition. Indian companies engaged in overseas construction projects have acquired adequate expertise and capabilities in the

construction of high-rise buildings, residential complexes, highways, roads, bridges, airports, harbours, multipurpose irrigation projects, water supply and sewerage schemes, water treatment plants, railways and other types of infrastructural facilities.

India's large reservoir of highly qualified personnel in the technical, managerial and financial disciplines has enabled the construction companies to offer attractive packages of terms to potential overseas clients.

OCCI has been set up by the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India to act as a focal point for channelling of information and to identify Indian companies capable of executing projects in overseas markets. The council also provides a forum to public and private sector construction and engineering companies in India for entering into consortium arrangements for bidding or executing overseas contracts. Sitaraman said there

are about 85 companies as members of OCCI. In order to bid for mega projects, OCCI has recently promoted a consortium of 13 leading construction companies in India.

Indian companies have completed a variety of projects in the following countries: Libya, Algeria, Maldives, Tanzania, Iraq, Oman, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Jordan, Qatar, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Soviet Union, Yemen Arab Republic, Nigeria and Brunei.

He said the workmanship of Indian companies has been highly appreciated by the clients. Looking at the construction scenario, Sitaraman said Iraq has also indicated that projects are available to those countries which offer deferred payment facilities. Apart from trade, India has played a significant role in a number of development projects in Iraq. More than 100 such projects have been com-



Prof. S. Sitaraman

pleted by Indian companies in Iraq with a total value of approximately \$3,800 million. He said a good portion of these projects have been completed under deferred payment arrangement. Sitaraman said OCCI con-

vened a meeting of all its members domiciled in Iraq, in which Indian Ambassador to Iraq, K.N. Bakshi, Commercial Counsellor A. Ramesh were also present. Nearly 30 Indian companies are still working in Iraq.

Bakshi said India's participation in the recent Baghdad International trade fair was remarkable both in terms of the number of companies and the variety of products which were on display—65 Indian companies (perhaps the highest number in any Baghdad fair ever) spread over more than 1,000 sq. metres.

The Indian pavilion displayed products which range from agricultural machinery and equipment, machine tools, diesel engines, pump sets, mopeds, bicycles and spares, hand tools, textiles, tea, coffee, technical books, consultancy services in the fields of construction of bridges, roads, housing complexes and railways.

Indian companies are examining joint venture possibilities in many new industrial units to be set up in Iraq.

OCCI chief was visiting Kuwait last week to explore new possibilities in the construction fields. Sitaraman said: "Kuwait offers good prospects for Indian construction companies as they are now in an enviable position to meet the needs of Kuwait. There are many areas in which Indian companies with their comparatively cheap and competent manpower and international work experience can undertake major projects either as their own or in co-operation with local construction companies."

During his short visit to Kuwait, Sitaraman met some of the senior officials in the Ministry of Public Works, Ministry of Electricity and Water, Ministry of Planning and National Housing Authority and discussed ways to promote economic and commercial relations between

Kuwait and India particularly in the construction fields. R.P. Singh, the first secretary of Indian embassy here, who extended his co-operation to the OCCI chief to meet most of the Kuwaiti officials.

Sitaraman said OCCI was ready to provide technical expertise and know-how to the young Kuwaiti engineering students to enable them acquire field experience. He said: "For this purpose, it would be good idea to organise a training programme in construction management for Kuwaiti youths every year in India or Kuwait. The trainees will be given basic inputs in the fields of construction technology, project management, marketing, industrial economics, engineering and finance and accounting. India and Kuwait can open new chapter in economic co-operation as partners for mutual benefit by way of development for commercial and economic progress."

Japan's account surplus declines

TOKYO, Dec 2, (AP): Japan's current account surplus declined for the eighth consecutive month in October, falling the largest amount ever from year-earlier levels, the Finance Ministry announced yesterday.

The surplus in the current account, the broadest measure of a nation's international financial flows, shrank 51.8 per cent to \$3.59 billion from \$7.45 billion in October 1988.

The surplus also declined from the previous month, when it registered \$5.91 billion, the ministry said.

In a separate announcement yesterday, the management and co-ordination agency said the country's unemployment rate rose 0.1 percentage point in October to 2.3 per cent.

The agency said the nation's job holders in October totalled 61.94 million, up 1.29 million, or 2.1 per cent, from the same month last year.

October marked the fifth consecutive month that the number of job holders posted a monthly increase of more than 1.2 million, the agency said.

The Finance Ministry said Japan's trade surplus in October, measured on the basis of settled contracts, was \$3.46 billion, down from \$9.90 billion a year earlier.

Japan's exports during the month totalled \$22.37 billion, down 2.6 per cent from a year earlier, while imports were \$16.91 billion, up 21.9 per cent.

The previous record decline in the current account was \$2.93 billion in July 1984, the ministry said.

A ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, attributed the decrease to the decline in exports, particularly of automobiles and steel. Car exports fell 12.8 per cent from the previous year's level, while steel exports declined 43.2 per cent.

Plan to stimulate capital flow

MANAMA, Dec 2, (Kuna): The Bahrain Stock Exchange and Kuwait's bourse have agreed to facilitate investment procedures in their two institutions, according to the director of Bahrain Stock Exchange Fawzi Bahad.

Bahad was quoted by the Bahraini Gulf News daily as saying Kuwaiti and other Gulf investors would have the same treatment of the Bahraini regarding dealing in the stock exchange.

He said the agreement on this co-ordination was reached during a meeting he held here recently with the technical director of Kuwait bourse Dr Sa'ad Al Rikabi.

Bahad said contacts were under way to ensure the flow of capital between Kuwait and Bahrain through investment in shares.

KUWAIT, Dec 2, (KUNA): Following are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait today.

Period	Offered	Received
1 month	8-5/16	8-1/2
3 months	8-1/4	8-1/2
6 months	8-1/4	8-1/2
1 year	8-1/4	8-1/2

Indian rupee	17.620
Sri Lankan rupee	7.530
Pakistani rupee	14.030
Bangladesh taka	9.130
US dollar	297.40
Pound sterling	463.75
UAE dirham	0.8093
Japanese yen	166.75
Deutsche mark	0.02084

Kuwait trade volume dips

Air of gloom still prevails

THE Alshahi Index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday Nov 29, 1989 an average of 41.01 points with a decrease of 0.03 point — 0.07 per cent — from last week's average. The Alshahi Index for non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies reached 64.48 with a decrease of 1.57 point — 2.38 per cent — for the same period, according to Alshahi weekly market report.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 20.10 million shares at a daily average of 4.02 million shares with a decrease of 13 per cent from the previous week's daily average of 4.61 million shares. Non-Kuwaiti traded shares reached 2.76 million shares at a daily average of 0.55 million shares with an increase of 62 per cent over last week's daily average of 0.34 million shares.

The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD7.55 million at a daily average of KD1.51 million, an increase of less than 1 per cent over last week's daily average of KD1.50 million.

The value of non-Kuwaiti traded shares was KD10.12 million at a daily average of KD0.024 million, an increase of 60 per cent over last week's daily average of KD0.015 million.

For the Kuwaiti shares market, the banking sector came first at 63 per cent of total trading at 62 per cent last week. The Gulf Bank had the lead at 30 per cent followed by the National Bank of Kuwait and Commercial Bank at 17 per cent each and Kuwait Finance House at 16 per cent. The investment sector came second at 20 per cent in which Coast Investment and Development Company had the lead at 62 per cent followed by National Investment Company at 21 per cent and Kuwait Investment Projects Company at 8 per cent. The services sector came third at 9 per cent in which Mobile Telephone Systems had the lead at 84 per cent followed by Public Warehousing at 8 per cent and Kuwait Commercial Complex at 7 per cent. As for the non-Kuwaiti shares market, Bahrain International Bank had the lead at 42 per cent followed by Arabian General Investment Company (Shuaa) at 38 per cent and Gulf Medical Projects Company at 9 per cent.

The market continues to show signs of decrease. In the Kuwaiti shares market, a further decrease was recorded this week, in spite of last week's fall in all three indices and the approaching end-of-year. As for the non-Kuwaiti shares market, considered to be less important — signs of activity were recorded. The concentration in trading on few companies shares persisted, in order to minimise investment risks and to secure a minimum level of profit.

Kuwait shareholding companies index	Wed. 29/11/89	Wed. 22/11/89	Change
Banking Sector	126.11	124.96	1.15
The National Bk	32.81	32.81	—
The Gulf Bk	24.59	24.59	—
The Comm. Bk	—	—	—

Bombay shares	Pr. Close	Open	Close
ACC	310	311	314
Alcan Chem	—	—	—
Alkaf	—	—	—
Art Fab	—	—	—
Ashtek Ley	91	90	91.50
Asia Paint	197.50	202.50	202.50
Atlas Corp	43.50	43	44
Aut Indus	370.44	—	375.15
Bajaj Auto	330	332.50	342.50
Bar Rayon	685	695	695
Blow Plast	—	—	—
Bom Dye	163	168	177
BK Bond	107	107	109
Burr Wal	80	75	85
Can Bank	3225	3275	3300
Can Indus	2615	2620	2630
Colgate	180	182.50	186.25
Crompton	1275	—	—
DCM	13.50	13	14
Deep Fert	27.50	27.50	28.25
Dunlop	67	70	72
El Hotels	62	—	—
Excels	75.50	76	77.50
BSE index	676.92	—	—

Al Ahli Bk	37.34	37.34	—
Bk of Kt & ME	31.91	32.38	-0.47
Kuwait R. Est. Bk	31.29	31.29	—
Burgan Bk	26.53	27.06	-0.52
Kt Finance House	65.69	67.34	-1.65
Food Sector	50.81	50.80	0.01
Inv. Sector	—	—	—
Kuwait Inv. Co.	10.10	11.02	-0.92
Kt. Int. Inv. Co.	8.59	8.59	—
IFA	29.34	29.34	—
Comm. Facilities	151.25	154.00	-2.75
National Inv.	55.88	54.90	0.98
Kt. Inv. Proj.	91.01	91.01	—
Coast Inv. & Dev.	98.10	100.00	-1.18
Food Sector	33.24	33.77	-0.53
Inv. Sector	—	—	—
KP Ind. Co.	40.07	40.07	—
Gulf Ind. Co.	25.00	25.00	—
Al Fakhra Ind.	50.35	50.33	—
Warba Ind. Co.	54.12	54.12	—
Food Sector	38.54	38.54	—
Real Est. Sec.	16.06	16.06	—
Kt. Real Est.	5.29	5.16	0.12
Und. Realty	—	—	—
Nat. Real Est.	37.43	37.43	—
Pearl of Kt.	71.43	71.43	—
Food Sector	16.85	16.48	0.37
Inv. Sector	—	—	—
Kt. Cmt. Co.	10.91	10.91	—
Ref. Ind.	85.65	84.55	1.10
Gulf Cables	116.52	116.52	—
Kt. Pharm.	62.22	62.22	—
Food Sector	28.87	28.80	0.07
Service Sector	—	—	—
Kt. Cmptr. Co.	157.68	157.68	—
Kt. Cinema Co.	9.51	8.56	0.95
Pub. Whousg Co.	66.67	66.67	—
Kt. Comm. M. Co.	34.53	34.59	-0.46
M. Tele. Syst.	332.38	342.86	9.52
Food Sector	81.84	80.77	1.48
L. Trad. & Transp.	25.22	28.89	-3.66
Und Fisheries	11.05	11.33	-0.28
Kt. Utd Poultry	110.01	110.01	—
Kt. Food Co.	75.86	75.86	—
Food Sector	38.37	38.33	-1.46
Overall index	41.01	41.04	-0.03

Non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies index

Wed. 29/11/89	Wed. 22/11/89	Change
First G. Bk.	223.68	223.68
Bah. Ind. Bk.	86.90	86.90
Bah. M.E. Bk.	89.22	92.07
A. Gen. Inv. (Shua)	42.42	43.18
Union A.I.Q. Cmt.	17.62	17.62
Med. Proj.	12.12	25.25
Total Index	64.48	66.06

—Base period 31/12/1982.

—All the companies listed by the Stock Exchange under non-Kuwaiti companies are included.

Output deal could herald new era for oil exporters

VIENNA, Dec 2, (Reuters): Six days of talks that culminated last week in a fresh Opec output agreement could signal an end to the wrangling over how much oil each of the organisation's members is allowed to produce, energy analysts say.

The key is in remarks by Kuwaiti Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Khatib at a news conference on Tuesday in which he talked of the end of production quotas within two years.

"Opec is entering a new phase where what produces what is no longer determined by oil politics but rather by market capacity," said Bahman Karbassian, a Vienna-based industry consultant.

Opec minister raised the group's output ceiling from 20.5 million barrels per day (bpd) to 22 million for the first half of 1990 but said the actual flow would be more like 22.5 million allowing for overproduction by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and underproduction by others.

Sheikh Ali, whose agreement to raise Opec's output by 25 per cent to 1.5 million bpd was virtually the only result of the meeting, said the members did not matter.

He said that in a couple of years the quota-based system may be irrelevant as some countries are producing at their full capacity. At the same time, demand growth over the next two years will be there to satisfy those with surplus capacity.

He forecast that world oil demand would rise from 52 million bpd this year to 53 million next year and 54 million in 1991, against a background of falling supply from non-Opec.

Sheikh Ali, Opec's longest serving minister with a reputation as a skillful negotiator and a flair for long-term strategy, sees a time after 1991 when the oil market will be dominated by three or four countries within Opec.

"The Gulf countries led the meeting. It symbolises the shape of Opec for the first half of the 1990s," said Yoshiki Hatsumoto, Cairo-based chief representative for the Japanese Institute of Middle Eastern Economics.

Karbassian traced the change in philosophy back to Tehran where Iranian Oil Minister Ghobad Azhadeh formulated a proposal for future increases in Opec members' production quotas to be based on output capacity.

"Iran recognised it, the UAE practices it and Indonesia confirmed it," Karbassian said.

Sheikh Ali saw the oil price holding around \$18 a barrel for the next four years.

Bill Edwards, a private oil consultant from Houston, said the lack of enough "sweet", low-sulphur crude to meet demand was a critical factor preventing the market from being gripped by an Opec hierarchy in the future.

Volvo models rated safest

WASHINGTON, Dec 2: Death rates in auto accidents vary widely among different types of cars, with the Volvo 740 and 760 models having the lowest rate and the Chevrolet Corvette the highest, according to a US study by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

In an analysis of the 103 most popular cars, the institute found that car size, as expected, is a significant factor in vehicles' death rates. Of the 10 cars with the lowest rates, three were large, six were midsize and only one was small. Most of the cars with the highest death rates were small.

The study focused on occupant deaths in 1986-1987 model-year cars. In an analysis of the 103 most popular cars, the institute found that car size, as expected, is a significant factor in vehicles' death rates. Of the 10 cars with the lowest rates, three were large, six were midsize and only one was small. Most of the cars with the highest death rates were small.

The study found that a rate of 0.5 for the Volvo 740 and 760 four-door models. Other cars with low death rates include the Ford Taurus station wagon, 0.7; the Lincoln Town Car, 0.8; the four-door Audi 6000, 1.1; the four-door Cadillac Fleetwood and de Ville 1.1; the two-door Cadillac Fleetwood and de Ville 1.1; the Chevrolet Cavalier station wagon, 1.1; the oldsmobile Cutlass Ciera station wagon, 1.1; the four-door Toyota Cressida, 1.1 and the four-door Volkswagen Jetta 1.1.

At 5.2, the death rate for the Corvette was more than eight times as high as the Volvo rate. Other cars with high death rates include the Chevrolet Camaro, 4.9; the Dodge Charger and Shelby, 4.5; the Ford Mustang, 4.4; the Nissan 300ZX, 4.3; the four-door Chevrolet Chevette, 4.1; the Honda Civic CRX, 3.9; the Pontiac Firebird, 3.8; the Plymouth Turismo, 3.6; and the Pontiac Fiero, 3.6.

A spokesman for General Motors Corp's Chevrolet division declined to comment on the institute's findings. "We are aware of the study but can't comment until we see the data," he said.

The highway-safety group, which is financed by the insurance industry, computed the rates based on the total number of occupant deaths and car registrations in the three calendar years, 1986-1988.

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'Right-now, we're talking about Hungary and Poland'

US reviews controls on high-tech exports to East bloc

WARSAW, Dec 2, (Reuters): The United States has launched a broad review of its controls on high technology exports to Eastern European countries, especially Poland and Hungary, Commerce Secretary Robert Moshbacher said yesterday.

"I would say that there is a review of our export administration controls," Moshbacher told Reuters during a visit to Warsaw by a US aid delegation.

Moshbacher said the Bush administration had begun an interagency review within the last few weeks and that a decision may be made on possible changes in the controls within one to three months.

"We're reviewing everything, but of course right now, we're talking about Hungary and Poland because they are the ones we're working on... in Eastern Europe," he said.

A bill signed by President George Bush this week will help Poland modernise its antiquated telecommunications system, but export of much modern communications equipment to the East bloc is limited by law.

The United States belongs to Cocom, the Co-ordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Control, a group of 17 Western nations formed more than 40 years ago to prevent high technology goods from slipping into communist hands.

But other members of the pact have said it is time to reassess those controls to help the economy and stability of liberalising Eastern European nations.

Polish and US officials meeting in Warsaw this week have repeatedly stressed the need for Poland to improve its telephone system to remove obstacles against increased Western

business in Poland. Businessmen in the delegation say it is extremely difficult to make telephone connections with the United States, Britain and other Western nations, and the country's internal telephone system also is ragged.

"I think telecommunications is kind of like the blood system to the body," said Robert Galvin, chairman of the communications manufacturer Motorola and a member of the delegation.

Galvin called the export control well-intended, but he said much equipment, including advance telephone systems, could be relaxed without damaging national security.

"The Polish people are taking the risk of abandoning communism for democracy. I think the American people ought to take a little risk," Galvin said.

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Indonesia warns against trade moves on timber

JAKARTA, Dec 2. (Reuters): Indonesia, second only to Brazil in the vastness of its tropical forests, has warned against suggested trade moves aimed at stopping their destruction.

Last week a senior European Commission official said radical measures, such as an import levy on tropical timber, might have to be imposed to force countries to adopt sustainable development of their forests.

But in an interview, Indonesia's Environment Minister Emil Salim said the answer was to make the trees more valuable, so people look after them.

"It's common economics. If something is valuable you take care of it. It's like gold, like diamonds," he said.

"If you put on a levy... raise the price and therefore reduce the demand what will be the impact? You will strive for a bigger volume for the same value. So you will get the reverse effect."

Destruction of the world's forests is widely linked to global warming and Western governments are coming under increasing pressure at home to take measures to force the Third World, home to many of those forests, to take more care.

Indonesia, a huge archipelago sprawling along the equator, has already banned log exports and recently put an export tax on sawn timber, arguing that it should get more out of its resources.

"The higher value you get, the more justification for using the tropical forest efficiently," Emil said. "What I want actually is to get a higher import duty on logs but a reduced import duty on higher value-added timber, like furniture."

This boosts the economy, raises incomes and employment and removes pressure on the tropical forest, he says, arguing that the root causes of much of the destruction are poverty and unemployment.

Only about a quarter of Indonesia's annual destruction of forest is from logging. The World Bank estimates that globally half of the destruction is carried out by small farmers, often using slash-and-burn techniques.

Emil said, "This approach (of import levies)... will hit our terms of trade, our foreign exchange which is an Achilles heel in developing countries with debt repayments."

Iran finds gas in Caspian Sea

NICOSIA, Cyprus, Dec 2. (AP): An Iranian-Soviet drilling project has struck gas under the southern Caspian Sea where seismicographic tests have indicated large oil reserves, Tehran radio reported today.

The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, said the gas was found at depths between 1,062 metres (3,470 feet) and 4,700 metres (15,370 ft). It said oil exploration was continuing at a depth of 6,000 metres (19,600 ft).

Oil, because it is heavier, is often found under layers of gas.

Iran's National Offshore Oil Co. and Technoexport of the Soviet Union began joint drilling in the Caspian, shared by both countries, last September. It is 127 miles (205 kilometres) off the Iranian port of Bandar Anzali.

Soviet experts say the project has immense potential. The area is not far from Soviet offshore oilfields, where production was recently pegged at 210,000 barrels a day.

The oil reserves in Iranian waters have been estimated at 300 million barrels. Another 700 million barrels may also be available.

Three more wells are scheduled to be drilled under the joint programme over the next five years. Another five wells are planned along Iran's Caspian coastline.

The NOOC-Technoexport operation is part of a 10-year co-operation pact which Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani signed in Moscow last June.

Under the agreement, totalling some \$6 billion, the Iranians will export 3 billion cubic metres of gas to the Soviet Union in return for machinery, equipment and technical expertise.

Renewed optimism seen in the stock market

NEW YORK, Dec 2. (AP): The US Federal Reserve Board didn't come through with a widely expected cut in interest rates this past week, but investors remained optimistic anyway and stock prices rose.

"This was the first sign since the Oct 13 mini-crash that the stock market has accepted bad news with any grace," said Wall Street analyst John D. Conolly of Dean Witter Reynolds Inc.

The renewed optimism grew out of the latest economic indicators that point to a fourth-quarter economic slowdown, and expectations that the Federal Reserve will cut short-term interest rates to stimulate growth.

Data on October's personal spending and leading indicators and the outlook for November manufacturing

growth all declined, while last month's jobless claims rose.

"We now live under the perverse perception that what's bad for the economy is good for the market under the guise that the Fed will lower interest rates," said Dennis Jarrett, technical analyst with Kiddier, with Kiddier, Peabody and Co.

The Fed jolted the financial markets Monday by signalling that it was not intentionally lowering short-term interest rates, contrary to popular speculation. The loud and clear message came in the form of the Fed draining funds from the banking system, which pushed short-term rates higher.

The assumption that the Fed was allowing short-term rates to fall grew

out of a sharp drop the previous week in the federal funds rate, the interest banks charge each another for overnight loans.

The new thinking since Monday is that the Fed will lower rates, albeit more slowly than expected, thereby stimulating the economy and bolstering sagging corporate profits in the new year.

Analysts said this week's stock market activity pointed to growing optimism following several weeks of uncertainty. Since Oct 13, when the Dow Jones industrial average tumbled more than 190 points, many investors had shied away from any kind of commitment.

Though some blue-chip stocks have

been strong, as reflected in the Dow average, the timidity was evident in the broader market, which has languished. Stocks that have performed best are the larger capitalisation issues, companies with reputations for long-term, uninterrupted growth.

"There's still some apprehension, but growing confidence," said Hugh Johnson, senior vice-president at First Albany Corp. "The reason the market has been this good in the face of a slowing economy is because it anticipates that the slowdown won't last that long because the Fed will take steps to lower short-term rates."

Further fuelling the argument for lower interest rates is a growing consensus among economists that real GNP

growth will slow to roughly 1.5 per cent in the final quarter of 1989 from 2.7 per cent in the previous three months, analysts said.

A surprise rally yesterday ahead of the weekend US-Soviet summit helped boost the Dow Jones average to a 2,747.65 closing on the week, up 72.10 points from the previous week and the 10th highest finish ever.

Volume on the Big Board averaged 160.57 million shares a day, up from a daily average of 127.02 million the week before.

The New York Stock Exchange composite index closed the week up 3.37 at 193.66; the Nasdaq composite index for the week the market advanced to 457.47, up 0.47; and the American Stock

Exchange market value index added 2.44 to 375.58.

Analysts said the outlook for the market is positive as the year draws to a close and some said they hope for a "Santa Claus rally." Two stimulants may help fuel the upward momentum, said Alfred E. Goldman, vice-president of A G Edwards and Sons Inc. in St. Louis.

"Professional money managers get a big inflow of corporate profit and pension fund money that gets invested," Goldman said. "Secondly, the Christmas spirit makes people feel good."

However, Goldman and other analysts say the market might have to give more ground first. "Markets just don't go straight up."

Gorbachev wants greater role for Soviet economy

Italy, Moscow sign a series of co-operation accords

MILAN, Italy, Dec 2. (Agence): Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said yesterday he was committed to increasing his country's role in the world economy.

"The experience of the past has demonstrated to us that development of the Soviet Union requires organic integration into world economic ties," Gorbachev said in a speech to Italian businessmen in Milan.

Ending a three-day visit to Italy, the Soviet leader said: "Our economic reform is going through a crucial moment. We are decisively destroying the administrative-bureaucratic system."

"Perestroika will be realised. There is no turning back. We start from the premise that the formation of a pan-European economy does not reduce the existing ties in the world economy."

Italy and the Soviet Union signed a series of co-operation accords on Thursday. Several joint ventures with Italian

private and public groups also were finalised.

Gorbachev praised the framework agreement on economic co-operation signed by Moscow and the European Economic Community last week.

"It will be a concrete contribution to the pan-European process, a big step toward the formation of the European economic area," he said.

Referring to Soviet plans to convert part of its arms industry to civil purposes, he said this was "a complex and very complicated process that involves many sectors of society."

"In the beginning, the transformation of the defence industry to a civil one will not be cheap, but in the future the advantages will be enormous."

The Soviet Union, on the eve of the summit meeting between President Bush and Gorbachev, bought 900,000 metric tons of US corn and soybean meal, the Agriculture Department said yesterday.

The purchases marked the

second major purchase by the Kremlin in two days and strengthened the Soviet Union's role as a major customer for US grain. It was the single largest export market for US grain last fiscal year.

In the latest deal, the Kremlin bought 800,000 tons of American-grown corn and 100,000 tons of soybean meal. The commodities were worth about \$92 million, based on prices at the Chicago Board of Trade.

On Thursday, the Kremlin bought about \$150 million worth of corn and soybean meal — 1.4 million tons of corn and 150,000 tons of soybean meal.

The purchases fulfilled speculation among grain traders that the Kremlin would buy at least 2 million tons of corn before Bush and Gorbachev meet at Malta.

The sales also highlighted the importance of meetings next Tuesday and Wednesday in Moscow. US and Soviet officials will discuss grain trade between

the superpowers so far this trade year and hold the first round of talks toward writing a new long-term grain agreement between the nations.

Since 1976, the superpowers have relied on long-term agreements to regulate the grain trade. The agreements specify minimum purchases each year by the Soviets. The current agreement, which requires the Soviets to buy at least 9 million tons of grain each year, expires Dec 31, 1990.

The Soviet Union has been a grain importer since the early 1970s as part of efforts to improve livestock production and the diet of its citizens.

In fiscal 1989, the Kremlin bought a record 21.7 million tons of US corn and wheat.

In the two months since fiscal 1990 began, it has purchased 10.3 million tons of corn, 705,000 tons of soybean meal, 160,700 tons of soybeans and 7,100 tons of barley. It has not purchased any US wheat although a US offer to subsidize sales remains in effect.

Expansion plans to continue

Emirates to serve 5 new destinations

DUBAI, Dec 2. Emirates, the international airline of the UAE, will serve five new destinations next year and will increase capacity on the daily London route, it was announced in Dubai yesterday.

The award-winning carrier, which celebrated its fourth anniversary last month (October) with the announcement that it will buy five more Airbus, will begin services to Bangkok, Manila, Singapore and Baghdad from June 1 and to Manchester from September 1.

At the same time, it will operate a new 223-seat Airbus A330-300R on the daily Gatwick service instead of the present A310.

On the Far East routes, Emirates will operate A310s twice-weekly to Manila via Bangkok and to Singapore via Colombo.

Maurice Flanagan, the airline's managing director, said: "The rapid growth of the Far Eastern economies makes our presence in these markets essential. Emirates' intention is always to create new traffic and we anticipate a significant increase in business, tourist and labour movements between Dubai and these points."

Deputy managing director Sultan Dhiyab added: "The

new routes are a major step forward in Emirates' continued expansion plans and they will help to enhance Dubai's position as the commercial capital of the region."

The airline will fly twice a week to Baghdad via Kuwait using an A310 and will operate a similar aircraft to Manchester via Frankfurt. "Emirates will be the first Arab carrier to operate to Manchester," Flanagan said. "There is a strong demand for this service and believe it will be a great success."

The extra capacity on the London route will also be a major benefit, adding more than 40 seats. The extended-range A300-600R will carry 223 passengers in a three-class configuration of 18 first class seats, 42 business and 163 economy. Emirates has dropped eight seats from the standard A300-600R layout to give passengers an added degree of comfort.

The airline will take delivery of two A300-600Rs next year with a third in 1991. It has also agreed to buy three more A310s and two high-capacity A330s which can accommodate 295 passengers in a three-class layout. It will be the first airline in the Middle East to fly the ultra-sophisticated A330.

US construction spending up 1pc

WASHINGTON, Dec 2. (AP): US construction spending rose one per cent in October, the government said yesterday. The report provided evidence that a slump in the building industry may be ending in response to lower interest rates.

The Commerce Department said spending rose \$4.2 billion to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$20.1 billion in October. The increase followed no change in September and a 1.5 per cent gain in August. Construction spending had fallen in July and June.

Analysts have been expecting the construction industry to begin rebounding in response to interest rate cuts by the Federal Reserve Board. The central bank sought to dampen inflationary pressures by pushing rates up through the spring.

By June, when signs of a slump emerged, the

central bank starting nudging rates down, with the most recent cut coming early in November.

Fixed-rate mortgages, for instance, averaged 10.1 per cent at the beginning of October and finished the month at 9.82 per cent, according to the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.

In October, residential construction, which accounts for nearly half of all building activity, rose 0.9 per cent to an annual rate of 193.6 billion, reversing a 0.9 per cent drop in September. Single-family construction rose 0.8 per cent in October after falling 1 per cent a month earlier, while multi-family building gained 1.8 per cent after dropping 3.0 per cent.

The gain in single-family activity ended a string of eight consecutive monthly declines.



Picture shows (from left to right) Yaginoma, Fushimi, (manager Yokohama), Dennis Stickley, Sano, Ithihar Massoud (group manager, MNSS) and C.T. Kuruvila (manager Yokohama division, MNSS).

Rubber Co. holds meeting

Bid to boost image of Yokohama

YOKOHAMA Rubber Co. Japan and its sole distributor in Kuwait, M/s Mohamed Naser Al Sayer & Sons Est (MNSS) jointly convened a dealer's convention on Thursday at Al Ramada Hotel, Kuwait.

Yokohama is one of the leading manufacturers of automobile tyres in the world and it has been acclaimed the world over as best performance in different terrains under varied weather and geographical conditions. Yokohama tyres were developed by integrating various high tech-

nologies for higher powered vehicles to ensure excellent control stability and high speed durability under all hazardous conditions.

The conference was inaugurated by the New Managing Director of MNSS Dennis A. Stickley. In his speech Stickley welcomed all the tyre dealers and other customers and assured them of all sorts of support for strengthening the sales of Yokohama products in the local market. He pointed out that the

dealer friends has turned the selling of tyres from a mere trading activity to a fine art, thus boosting the image of the Yokohama tyre in the market.

Sano, Manager, Yokohama Rubber Co. also spoke on the occasion. The guests were received by the Group Manager of MNSS Ithihar Massoud and Manager of the Division C.T. Kuruvila. The conference was attended by the dealers, Construction and Transport Co. officials and the representatives of Mitsubishi Corporation.



Organized by: Shanghai Municipal People's Government Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Commission

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On the occasion of the opening of Shanghai General Trading Est.

Slower growth for US economy

THE dollar, in common with other major currencies, continued to weaken against the strong Deutschmark this week falling below technical support at DM1.79 although the US unit has maintained its position vis a vis the Japanese yen, according to NBK weekly market reports.

Equities have been pushed higher assisted by the firmness of the bond market with the Dow Jones Industrial Average reaching its highest level since October's mini-crash.

The modest upward revision in the third quarter GNP figure prompted little reaction whilst the first fall in over a year in personal consumption pushed the dollar down a slightly.

There has been considerable confusion this week about the Federal Reserve's current monetary policy with hopes of an imminent cut in prime lending rates receding.

Economic indicators continue to underline the slow down in the economy with the index of leading indicators, which is designed to reveal the direction of the economy in the next six to nine months, displaying the largest decline in five months and showing weakness in growth with a downturn in some sectors.

There are few data releases next week and trading ranges for the coming week are expected to continue to soften as follows: DM1.75-1.78 and Yen 141-143.

Despite Bank of England intervention sterling has been undermined this week by speculation that the Treasury was not prepared to raise interest rates to support the pound together with doubts about whether Mrs Thatcher could survive the leadership challenge and the Government's low standing in opinion polls.

The UK unit has lost more than 8 per cent of its value against the Deutschmark since base rates were raised to 15 per cent in early October but this is due to demand for the German unit rather than fundamental weakness of the pound.

The equity market has currently adopted a more optimistic trend assisted by slight firming of the pound against the dollar and yen and sterling ended the week at DM2.78 and £\$1.56.

Amid growing doubts about the Government's willingness to raise base rates further to support the pound, John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer attempted to clarify once again the Government's exchange rate policy in view of the recent falls in sterling. He confirmed that the

exchange rate was just one of the monetary indicators taken into account when fixing interest rate levels. With no new economic data released this week and very little next week sterling is particularly vulnerable to political uncertainties at present.

Major also warned that inflationary pressure are still in the pipeline with November's Retail Price Index expected to reflect a renewed rise due to the increase in mortgage rates. Sterling is expected to continue suffering from the Deutschmark's exceptional strength with trading ranges for the coming week of: DM2.75-2.80 and £\$1.55-1.58.

Interest rate differentials continue to help support the advancing Deutschmark although as expected the Bundesbank decided to leave its credit policies unchanged at their regular council meeting this week. Despite some profit-taking during the week the German unit's exceptional value also continues to be buoyed by the political developments in East Germany.

Separately, the West German cost-of-living index rose 0.2 per cent in November from October and jumped 3 per cent from the previous year whilst wholesale prices increased by 4 per cent from a year earlier.

EVENTS

ARAB TIMES, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1989



Sented.



The Needle



The Manservant



Adventures of Quentin Durward.

New Faces of Soviet Cinema

SOVIET actress Olga Kabo and director Alexander Kordon took part in the opening of the "New Faces of Soviet Cinema" festival, which opened yesterday.

The festival, which has been organised by Cine Club, will be held at the Chamber

of Commerce and Industry.

It opens with the Adventure of Quentin Durward, based on a novel by Walter Scott. A romantic historical, it examines the mechanism of power through the story of Quentin and Isabella. Olga Kabo stars

in this film.

Other Soviet films to be shown during the weeklong festival are: "Sented (Dec 3); The Needle (Dec 4), starring Victor Tsoi; The Villain (Dec 5), starring Gasanga Turabov; and The Manservant

(Dec 6), starring Oleg Borisov and Irina Rozanova.

All movies are subtitled. Screenings start at 7.30 pm at the chamber of commerce auditorium. Children are not admitted.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Seminar
THERE will be a seminar at the DAA on "Arabic & European Art in the Light of Zodiacal Symbolism" December 10, 1989 - January 10, 1990, Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am. Anyone wishing to register for this seminar may do so at the DAA during museum hours.

SOCIAL

Bhartiya Kala Sangam
A family get-together for members of Bhartiya Kala Sangam will be held at the Indian Embassy premises on Thursday, Dec 7, 1989 at 7.30 pm. There will be an entertainment programme including 'fancy dress competition' for children, lucky draw, and sumptuous buffet for members. Lots of prizes and surprises await for one and all. For details please contact tele. 5628171, 2551305.

Variety Show
UPKAAAR is a newly formed non-profit cultural group of Hindi/Urdu speaking expatriates in Kuwait. Upkaar, whose aim is to promote art, culture and literature is going to hold an inaugural variety entertainment programme at Al Sharq Co-operative Auditorium comprising of dances, dramas, musical items and pantomimes on December 15 at 6.00 pm. This will be followed by a buffet dinner. Interested persons may contact 4880965 or 2615515.

United Goans Centre
SANTA Claus is coming to town on December 15 at the Al Salam Hotel in the Al Deira Hall exactly at 9.30 am, with loads of gifts and sweets for all your children. Make your presence at the United Goans Centre's X'mas party. A unique fancy dress parade for children and lots of surprises awaits the young and the old. Lively music from the "Next of Kin." For further information contact Tony 2612024 or Moses 242293.

NRI General Body Meeting
NRI Investors Forum holding annual G.B. meeting at Indian embassy on December 15 at 11.00 am. Investment speakers specially invited from India. Also presentation of NRI of the Year trophy. Followed by complimentary lunch for members.

X'mas tree '89
CHRISTMAS is for children, and what better way than to celebrate it with the New Goans Overseas Association at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel (the new Al-Mirage Ballroom) on the 15th of December 1989. Highlights include 'carol singing competition' (4 local schools participating) games for children, novelty dance and music by the Stepping Stones. Santa Claus will be distributing gifts to all the kids. For reservations contact Anthony on tel: 5621968 (after 6.00 pm) or Julio.

X'mas tree
DEC 15: Flying Arrows Sporting Centre once again invites their members and guests to their annual X'mas tree function, to be held at the Carlton Tower Hotel from 11.30am onwards. Assumptious buffet, gifts galore, exciting games and live music by the "Neighbuzz" awaits one and all. Added attraction, Leo the Magician is to perform at 12.00pm sharp.

Musical evening
"UPASANA" one of the leading musical groups is conducting their 6th musical programme on Friday, December 22 at 5.30 pm at Funaites. The programme contains most of the latest hit songs from Hindi, Tamil and Malayalam. For entry passes please contact Tel. 3987249/3986956/3987396/5643643/5638762/4315374/4314018.

Kuchipudi Dance
THERE will be a lecture demonstration for Kuchipudi Dance by Dr. Raja Reddy and Dr. Radha Reddy on 4th December '89 at 9 am for all the Indian School children and on 5th December '89 at 8 pm for the public at Indian Arts Circle Auditorium. All are cordially invited.

Associates Inc., Arlene Boncillo, computer programmer, Jonathan A. Gonzales, Financial Accountant of Holiday Inn Hotel, Rudy Ocampo, Manager of Echo Electronics and Manuel V. Banez, FTC Administrator of Yusuf A. Alghamir & Sons W.L.L.

This self-improvement course or the free classes given by Kapilku to its members will be their passport in their future undertakings and for career betterment, Kapilku President Manny Insarte said.

All interested participants should contact Vice President Sarah Macarimbang, the overall co-ordinator of the project on Wednesday for reservation and confirmation on telephone number 4843447.

The computer course is sponsored by Kabayan Restaurant and organised by the Kapisanang Filipino sa Kuwait (Kapilku).

December Delights
DEC 8: Expatriates Club announces its Yuletide gala-social for children and adults at the SAS 'Tent' Hotel from 0930 hours onwards. Gifts for all children, fancy dress, hamper prizes, lunch buffet, gifts, prizes and surprises from the sponsors and the club. Book early for table reservations. Wilson 3918938, Val 5614506 (after 4 pm) and Tony 5655056 (after 5 pm). Music by Stepping Stones.

Christmas Cantata
THE English language congregation choir of the National Evangelical Church will sing the Christmas musical "Meet Him at the Manger" on 6th Wed and 10th Sunday at 6 pm. Please plan to attend one of these evenings and celebrate the Advent season.

pm. Details from S. Hill 5391720 or G. Adams 5644533.

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4th Area

Kapilku meeting

THE Kapisanang Pilipino sa Kuwait (Kapilku) will hold their officer's meeting on Monday, Dec 4 at Kabayan Restaurant at 8.00 pm. Topics to be discussed are as follows:
1. Computer course (DOS, Lotus 123, Wordstar and Data Base III +)
2. Pasko sa Kuwait '89 (aawitan kita/Filipino song festival, fashion show by all candidates of Hiyas ng Pilipinas - Kuwait with their beautiful gowns and barong Tagalog for men);
3. Bayanihan (Christmas gifts distribution);
4. General election Jan 12, 1990;

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Granada
Bade Ghar ki Beti
Salaibikhat
Imagine John Lennon
Jeeb
Arabic film
Ahmadi Drive-In
The Rescue.

PRAYERS

Fajr	5.02 am
Zohr	11.38
Asr	2.30 pm
Maghreb	4.49
Isha	6.11

● All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily except Thursdays, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

An evening of classical music

WORLD-renowned opera singer Araxia Davtian accompanied by the internationally famous pianist Diana Mkrtchian will have a concert on Dec 4 at the Kuwait International Hotel. Pieces from Verdi, Bellini and Vivaldi will be played. Davtian, a soprano, made her European and American debuts in 1987. She is a graduate of the Yerevan State Conservatory and a popular soloist with Armenian radio and television. She has sung in the Rotterdam Philharmonic's Mozart Festival and in 1990 will appear at the Mozarteum in Salzburg. It was in Mozart too that she created a sensation in the American press when she toured with the Moscow virtuosi last October.

Diana Mkrtchian, a pianist, also took her degree from the Yerevan Conservatory where she currently serves as professor of piano. She has worked extensively as an accompanist for many distinguished singers, and has participated in numerous international competitions. At the Viotti competition in 1984, she was awarded first prize for her collaboration with first prize winner Araxia Davtian.

The evening includes a reception dinner and the concert is being organised by Boodai Aviation and Kuwait International.



Araxia Davtian

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

MORNING PERIOD
9.30 The opening and Holy Quran
9.40 Sabah Al Kher, News and variety
9.50 Cartoon serial
10.05 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.15 Bait Min Waraq: Arabic serial (part 5)
11.15 Sabah Al Kher, News and Variety
11.30 That's Incredible: Variety programme
12.30 News Summary
12.35 Holy Quran and Closedown

EVENING PERIOD
4.00 The opening and Holy Quran
4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
4.45 Cartoon serial (part 11)
5.15 Cartoons
5.45 Night chemists, airlines and officials advertisements
6.00 Al Islam Hadhara: religious serial (part 23)
7.15 Diwanayat Shuara Al Nabat: Local programme
8.00 Hiwar Elmi: Cultural Programme, presented by Yousif Al Sul-

KTV 2

6.00 Opening announcement & Holy Quran
6.10 The New Three Stooges: A cartoon series for children
6.30 Munsters Today "Moonster Hoopers". Herman requests his cousin to train his son basketball ... but his cousin tries to train the boy in a funny way!
7.00 Weird and Wonderful. A look at the history of primitive Australia... Sports and contests that are only played in Australia. Strange land

scapes.
8.00 News in English
8.30 Bergerac. "Come out Fighting". As Bergerac makes his first acquaintance with notorious jewel thief Philippa Vale. "The Ice Maiden", he has to investigate the strange disappearance of a boxer's wife.
9.30 Sea Power. "Gun-Boat". The role played by armed gunboats in the navy ... watching coasts, territorial and international waters as well as monitoring fishing boats and fishing activities...
10.00 The Robert Guillaume Show. "A Piece of Rock". "Ann". Dr Edward's secretary presents him a piece of stone which she considers as a charm for Luck!
10.30 Bestseller "Troubles" Part II. The officer returns to Ireland where he plans to marry another Irish girl, but customs and traditions as well as religious difference make marriage impossible...
12.00 News in Brief
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

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Thailand has a lot to offer

Temples ... pagodas ... golden Buddhas ... misty mountains ... beaches

By George Cherian
Arab Times staff

Besides night life, Thailand has a lot of other attractions to lure tourists. Misrepresentation made Bangkok synonymous to sex tourism, which is not the fact. To prove its point Thailand recently arranged a visit for analysts from Kuwait to its different tourist attractions. The tour was arranged in co-operation with the Kuwait Airways Corporation.

DURING the past few years, Thailand has established itself as a major international holiday destination. Even the word Thai and evokes many delicious images. Bangkok's vibrant, almost legendary nightlife tops the list of those images in any foreigner's mind.

But the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) wants to project other attractions like the glittering temples, glorious beaches, misty mountains, pagodas and majestic golden Buddhas. Senior officials of the tourism authority told the Arab Times that even families and single women can visit Thailand. There are a lot of attractions for them too.

Most wives do not like their husbands to go to Bangkok for a holiday because it is known as a paradise for bachelors. Many of the tourists are eager for the flesh-pots of Bangkok where pretty girls are waiting to please them.

The Public Relations Director Sumontra Nakornthab said that news coverage in Europe often focuses only on sex tourism in Thailand. "We do not deny that we have it. But sex does not play a major role in Thai tourism. It is only a small spot in the tourism graph. Don't blow it up, keep a balance in news coverage", she requested.

But another official who wants to remain unidentified said that the sex industry at least triggers off growth in the cosmetic and clothing trades.

Many Thais who voiced the concern about the assault on their traditions from outside, found the flesh trade the most unacceptable aspect of foreign tourism. However, tourists find the guide books, newspapers and magazines still carry liberal quantities of "where to find it" sex advertisements.

Sumontra has given more accent on glorious tradition and other tourist attractions. Thailand has colourful floating markets, palm-fringed beaches, saffron-robed monks moving serenely through tropical landscapes, royal barges flowing along picturesque waterways, classical Siamese dances, traditional Thai cuisines, Thai boxing known for its use of fists, elbows, feet and knees, ancient cities and archaeological wonders, exotic waterfalls, mirrorlike seas, precious gemstones, and a lot more. The list is simply endless.

Sumontra said that the tourism authority recently launched a large campaign to attract single ladies and honeymoon goers. "We invited a group of travel agents from Japan who deal particularly with single ladies. Our government studied the market situation and prepared a new package for honeymoon trips," she said.

Literally translated, Thailand means "Land of the free" an appropriate epithet since the Thais cherish their independence. Indeed it was the only country in this region to have escaped European colonial domination.

Strategically located almost mid-way between India and China, Thailand has always been an important migratory, cultural and religious crossroad, a role it



Sumontra Nakornthab: emphasis



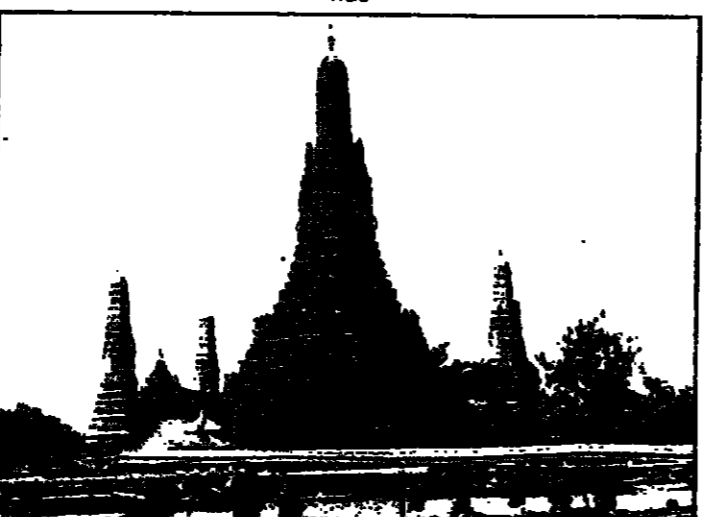
The bridge on the River Kwai.



A snakehandler carries three live snakes, two in his hands and the third one in his mouth.



Elephants are intelligent. Cherian is being greeted before the start of a ride



A historic temple besides the river.

nation, the others being the land and the Buddhist faith. The concept of monarchy remains the overwhelming force that binds the nation.

Located on the banks of the Chao Phraya River, Bangkok, the capital spreads across a flat plain and represents the blend of old tradition and modern progress.

The skyline is dominated by thrusting high-rise office buildings, luxury hotels, department stores and shopping complexes. But this is just one aspect of Bangkok. It is indeed the Orient's most exotic capital. The modern buildings do not obliterate a wealth of monuments to traditional glories.

Grand Palace
The Grand Palace located in an area of 61 acres, is surrounded by strong white-washed walls with ports and gates on four sides. This compound is divided into four main sections. The outer court to the east is the site of the Royal Temple of the Emerald Buddha. Official buildings are on the west side. The middle ground is where a group of throne halls and various royal buildings are located. The inner court behind the throne halls contains quarters for the king and queen and ladies of the court—now no longer in use.

In the soaring roofs and tapering gilded spires of the Grand Palace, Temple of Dawn and the rest of Bangkok's more than 400 Buddhist Temples, you are presented with images of Oriental splendour. Contained within such monuments are masterpieces of sculpture, paintings and decorative arts.

Once you begin to explore Bangkok you will realise just how much there is to discover. The scope for sightseeing is nearly endless. The national museum is not to be missed.

Exploring the Chao Phraya River, and the small canals of Thonburi give further insights into the history and character of Bangkok. But those canals passing through the downtown area are dirty and polluted.

When you consider the entertainment and nightlife Bangkok has something for everyone from displays of classical Thai dance to cocktail lounges, and discos with the latest high-tech sound and light systems. The choice is wide open.

At the top of anyone's shopping list should be Thai silk and gemstones. Silk is a traditional material now produced in a wide range of colours and design. Bangkok is also a world centre for coloured gemstones. Rubies and sapphires are mined in Thailand while other stones are imported for cutting and setting.

Thailand has at least 300,000 cutters, making it the world's biggest gem market.

Garments, leather goods, Thai Burmese and Khmer antiques, handicrafts in teakwood, ceramic, and bronze are other shopping attractions.

At Rose Garden, a country resort and cultural centre you can see the traditional Thai life. In the western suburbs is Siam water park, an aquatic playground which the children will love, especially on a hot day.

Pattaya, located on the east of the Gulf of Thailand, a two-hour drive from Bangkok, is a phenomenon. Colourful and alive with activity, Pattaya is unrivalled as a beach resort. It is in a class of its own, offering more attractions than any other single destination in Southeast Asia. Day and night it presents a lot of fun and thrills. It's amazing variety of water sports and shore-based recreation and entertainment that ensure there can never be a dull moment.

There is also a war museum in a small thatched-roof hut.

The prisoners-of-war who died during the construction of the Death Railway are buried in two cemeteries. Kanchanaburi cemetery is behind the railway station and 6,982 Allied soldiers were buried there. The other one the Khao Poon cemetery was originally the site of one of the main prisoners-of-war camps located on the right bank of Kwai River, and 1,750 soldiers were buried there.

War museum
Even now the Thai authorities keep the original train which the Japanese used during the war.

most striking things about their campaign is that it's based on non-violent, Gandhian principles. In the film, groups of villagers cluster around the camera to affirm their determination to hold onto their homes. "To us, this land is like gold," exclaims an elderly farmer. "How can they expect us to give it up?"

Others deride the government's offer of compensation: "Would they give up their birthplace if someone offered them money?" demands a young man. "Of course not!"

A group of women show equal determination: "We're prepared to die if need be — they'll have to drive the bulldozers over us."

This is no idle boast. On several occasions the villagers have blocked attempted incursions of military vehicles by forming

barricades of their own bodies — with women and children in the front ranks. At the first sign of an approaching vehicle, lookouts blow conch shells and beat drums to mobilise thousands of villagers within minutes.

Repeated government efforts to convince people of the advantages of "relocation" are dismissed by the local community. Last year, villagers unceremoniously destroyed the foundations of a "model village" built by the authorities.

Other tactics used by the government — including leaflets dropped from helicopters — are satirised by community theatre groups, formed by local people to spread the story of their resistance to wider audiences.

The villagers' campaign is almost wholly self-reliant, with

little involvement from outside. As Joshi points out: "This contrasts with several other protest movements against mass evictions, which are often inspired or led by outside agitators."

Over the years, villagers have become sceptical of local politicians who seek election on the back of a commitment to oppose the range — a commitment which all too often evaporates once they are elected.

The villagers decry the hypocrisy of the international forums, while forging ahead with a costly high-technology weapons research programme at home, of which one side-effect would be the expulsion of the people of Baliapal from their homeland.

"Voices from Baliapal" impresses the viewer with the courage of its subjects. Last year,

it won India's National Award for the Best Film on Social Issues. The Ministry of Information had earlier promised that all films which won such awards would be broadcast nationally on state television. In the case of "Voices from Baliapal," however, this is unlikely to happen. As Palit points out: "They simply will not show controversial subjects on state TV."

Despite this restriction, the film has been seen widely in India, at local film festivals and through screenings by other groups of activists.

Joshi and Palit are particularly pleased that it is being used in this way. "Baliapal has had a fair amount of press coverage," Joshi says, "but when people see a film, it just comes across much more clearly."



A Thai girl presenting a classical dance.

Pop out for baby love

Estefan giving up music for another child

HER world tour has been a triumph. After 10 years of desperate struggle, Gloria Estefan's career is really on a high.

She has had four hit singles from one album and has been named Songwriter of the Year. But all the 32-year-old queen of Latin pop wants is love — baby love. She has told her husband she is giving music one more year before she drops out to have another child.

There is nothing new in the passion that has gripped women before her from Sophia Loren and Susan Hampshire to Suzi Quatro, Meryl Streep, Sandra Dickinson, Linda Hamilton, Tina Turner and Yasmine Le Bon. Men are not immune from the urge. Just ask Jack Nicholson or Queen's Freddie Mercury. And it does not dull with time.

For 20 years Shirley Valentine star Pauline Collins mourned daily loss of the baby she gave away.

What is new is the way baby love has come out of the closet. Top photographers have taken to using chubby infants as the most chic of accessories. A spate of films — Three Men and a Cradle, Baby Boom, Maybe Baby, She's Having A Baby — have celebrated the trend.

Which only serves to pile on the agony for the would-be mums for whom nature refuses to play ball.

So desperate was top model Yasmine Le Bon after two miscarriages that she gave up £250,000 worth of work rather than take chances with her third pregnancy — with Duran Duran heart-throb Simon Le Bon's blessing.

Yasmin, 24, said: "There are some things that are much more important than money. During my previous two pregnancies, I continued working but this time I don't want to take any risks."

"Simon and I are determined nothing will go wrong this time."

The arrival of daughter Amber Rose was everything they hoped for and more. Yasmin took one look and vowed that she would be working less from now on.

Sandra Dickinson, actress wife of TV vet and former Dr Who actor Peter Davidson, knows how she felt. They wanted children for years, but said Sandra, "it just never happened. We had all the tests but doctors couldn't find any reason why I shouldn't conceive."

No sooner had the couple booked up for a test-tube baby consultation than Sandra discovered she was expecting!

Baby Georgina was born on Christmas Day, 1984. "The most beautiful Christmas present anybody could ever wish for," her delighted mother said.

It is different for Gloria Estefan. She and co-songwriter husband Emilio Estefan have a son, Nayib. While Gloria was on tour, Emilio had to leave the band he founded 14 years ago to stay home with their eight-year-old son.

"I got home only three or four times," she says. "But at least Emilio and Nayib managed to come and see me sometimes, too."

Now Gloria is looking forward to a different lifestyle. "My work suddenly isn't the most important thing in my life. I feel like it is time to create a family atmosphere instead of sticking to the pop-industry treadmill."

Suzi Quatro understands. She has two children — Laura, five, and Richard, two — after years of heartache. But she would have liked at least two more.

"I've been successful but I feel I have let everybody down over this," she says. "I would have loved a large family."

The 38-year-old singer-actress-TV presenter, whose husband is guitarist Len Tuckey, says: "We had been trying for more than two years before we sought medical help. In the end getting pregnant becomes the best and end-all of your life."

"Every single time we made love, you think 'Is this it? Is tonight the night?' You get desperate."

She finally became pregnant on fertility drugs — only to miscarry at three months. But luck was finally with her. Within six months of that heartbreak, Laura was on the way. And Suzi gave up jumping around on stage for fear of losing it.

Sophia Loren went further. The actress' life became ruled by her obsession to have a baby. And when her Swiss obstetrician, Hubert de Watterville, died years later, she was devastated.

She said: "I have lost the greatest friend of my whole life. Without him, I would have been a woman without a child — surely the saddest thing in the entire world."

Even with all his skill, the price had been high. Sophia had to spend the whole of both pregnancies lying still for fear of miscarriage.

Her life still revolves around Carlo Jr, now 20, and 15-year-old Eduardo. She divides her time between Los Angeles where Carlo is studying music and Geneva where Eduardo attends the English college. She worries about them all the time.



Rock star Suzi Quatro with daughter Laura Susan.

"What mother doesn't worry about her children becoming involved with drugs?" she asks. "It's their choice. If they want to experiment, they'll do it although I would soon find out."

Another of Hubert de Watterville's successes in his mission to help women conceive was the late mega-rich Christina Onassis whose life, friends said, was dominated by her desire to have a baby.

She finally managed to conceive in her fourth doomed marriage to Thierry Roussel. They parted but little Athina Onassis is now living with her father, his Swedish model girlfriend Gaby Landhage and their two children.

The four-year-old child who brought her mother such happiness in her short lifetime is probably the richest little girl in the world.

Susan Hampshire spent years learning to come to terms with her unfulfilled yearning for a second child. But, at 48, she admits she still longs for another baby.

She has a son Christopher, now 17, from her first marriage to French film director Pierre Granier-Deferre. She has also had three miscarriages and a baby daughter Victoria who lived for just 24 hours.

When Susan married second husband Eddie Mulikundis, she desperately wanted a second family with him. "It hasn't happened," says Susan who has even tried writing a book about the maternal instinct in an attempt to exorcise her own grief.

"I know I am lucky to have one son already," she says. "Many women never manage to get pregnant."

Biology might decree otherwise but some women feel it's never too late to be a mother. Tina Turner is 50 and has sons Craig and Ronnie who are 30 and 28.

"I'm not quite ready to be an old lady," she says. "While I'm still able to, I'd like to try for a baby girl."

The father would be her lover of three years, German record executive producer Erwin Bach, 16 years her junior.

That fine actress Meryl Streep has given up the stage for her children Mary Willa, nine, Henry, eight, and Grace, five.

"I haven't been able to think of doing things in the theatre," she says. "If I were in a play, I'd be leaving for work right when they came home from school. If you have children, you come home and they demand your attention."

They have, she says, had a profound influence on her life. "The day they were born, I started worrying. Doesn't every mother? And I never stop."

Linda Hamilton, blonde star of TV's Beauty and The Beast, is giving up the role for the love of her unborn child.

Voices from Baliapal reverberate

Award-winning film highlights a protest

PANOS: In the Indian community of Baliapal, south of Calcutta, 70,000 villagers are mounting a sustained campaign against the government's plans to evict them from their richly fertile farmlands in order to build a missile testing range. Now they are also the subject of an award-winning documentary, "Voices from Baliapal," by film-makers Vasudha Joshi and Ranjan Palit. The film had its European premiere at the Ecosession '89 Festival in France earlier this year.

Proposals for the missile range were first revealed by the government in 1984. Since then, the local community has used a combination of blockades and direct action to deny officials access to the area and thwart attempts to implement eviction plans.

As Joshi explains: "One of the

most striking things about their campaign is that it's based on non-violent, Gandhian principles.

In the film, groups of villagers cluster around the camera to affirm their determination to hold onto their homes. "To us, this land is like gold," exclaims an elderly farmer. "How can they expect us to give it up?"

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"Voices from Baliapal" impresses the viewer with the courage of its subjects. Last year,

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Gurusinghe hammers S. Australia

ADELAIDE, Australia, Dec. 2. (Reuters): Asanka Gurusinghe hit 109 against South Australia today to boost Sri Lanka morale ahead of the first cricket Test next week.

His stylish knock, compiled in 255 minutes, lifted the touring party to 274 for five at the close on the second day of a four-day match at the Adelaide Oval.

After the virtual wash-out on the opening day when only nine overs were possible, Gurusinghe prospered in the fine weather before being run out in the final session.

Both openers had been bowled by pacesman Colin Miller with only 31 on the board when Gurusinghe and Aravinda de Silva (54) took command with a third wicket partnership of 124 in 133 minutes.

Each man played in Melbourne District Cricket last season. De Silva topping the batting averages, and seemed to profit from the experience.

Substitute fieldsman Brett Williams ended Gurusinghe's innings with a brilliant throw soon after coming onto the ground to replace spinner Peter Sleep, who earlier bowled De Silva.

Exciting prospect Sanath Jayasuriya (37) and Hashan Tillekeratne (23) safely saw the tourists to the close with an unbroken 54-run stand. Jayasuriya has hit six fours.

Meanwhile Sri Lanka captain Arjuna Ranatunga, out with hairline fracture to the hand, will have a fitness test on Monday. He said his chances of playing in the first Test, starting on Friday, had improved substantially.

Scoreboard

SRI LANKA first innings	
R. Mahanama b Miller	10
D. Ranatunga b Miller	8
A. Gurusinghe run out	109
Aravinda de Silva b Sleep	54
A. Samarasekera run out	26
H. Tillekeratne not out	23
S. Jayasuriya not out	37
Extras (lb-2 nb-2 w-3)	27
Total (for five wickets)	274
Fall of wickets: 1-16 2-31 3-155 4-205 5-220	
To bat: R. Ratnayake, Asoka de Silva, G. Labrooy, C. Ramanyake.	
Bowling: (to date) Gladigau 17-3-51-0 (2nb), Miller 25-7-49-2, Zesers 12-4-30-0, Sleep 33-14-70-1 (3w), Francis 21-1-72-0, Hookes 1-1-0-0.	

Indian batsmen slam Pakistanis

Manjrekar hits double century



Manjrekar (right) with Shastri

LAHORE, Pakistan, Dec. 2. (Agencies): Sanjay Manjrekar hit a double century today as India batted their way to a commanding position on the second day of the third cricket Test against Pakistan.

Manjrekar, playing only his eighth Test, scored 218 in nearly nine hours, the highest score by an Indian against Pakistan. He now has 493 runs in the series so far.

At the close India, 255 for three overnight, were 458 for five.

Manjrekar, the 23-year-old son of former Test player Vijay, resumed on 132. He hit 28 fours in a stylish innings before he was run out in a slick piece of fielding by Abdul Qadir off his own bowling while trying for a quick single just before tea.

Ravi Shastri helped Manjrekar add 186 runs for the fourth wicket, second only to Vijay Manjrekar and Vijay Hazare's stand of 222 against England at Headingley in 1952.

Shastri was finally dismissed for 61 when he mistimed a drive and offered an easy catch to Javed Miandad off debutant pace bowler Shahid Mahboob.

The toiling Pakistani bowlers could make no further breakthrough before the close as Manoj Prabhakar and 16-year-old

Bombay schoolboy Sachin Tendulkar took full advantage of the benign pitch at the Khaddafi stadium.

Prabhakar was not out 44, including a six off leg-spinner Qadir, while Tendulkar had scored 34.

All the Pakistani bowlers suffered with captain Imran Khan conceding 108 runs for his solitary wicket taken early on the first day.

The Bombay-born Manjrekar has shown an excellent form from the start of the Indian tour of Pakistan. This is his second hundred of the series and third of his eight-Test career.

Manjrekar showed his potential against the West Indies early this year, during India's four Tests against that team and he has blossomed in the current series. He scored an unbeaten 113 in the opening Test followed by scores of 76 and 83 in the second.

Yesterday India had started their innings badly by losing their first two wickets with only five runs on the board. It was only Mohammed Azharuddin and Manjrekar who put the Indians back into the game with a defiant stand of 149.

Shastri and Manjrekar built on that stand and have now put

India in a position from where they cannot lose. India will be looking for a total of nearly 600 before they put Imran's side in to bat.

This is the first time that Indians have been in a commanding position. In the first two Tests they have had to fight back after surrendering the initiative at the start of the game.

But India have shown remarkable improvement with every match that they have played and given an appropriate answer to the critics who had predicted that this side would be brushed aside by the strong Pakistanis.

Scoreboard

INDIA first innings (overnight 255 for three)	
K. Srikanth b Wasim Akram	0
N. Sidhu lbw b Imran	4
S. Manjrekar run out	218
M. Azharuddin c Abbas	61
b Mahboob	77
R. Shastri c Miandad b Mahboob	61
M. Prabhakar not out	44
S. Tendulkar not out	34
Extras (b-4 lb-13 nb-2 w-1)	20
Total (for five wickets)	458
Fall of wickets: 1-12 2-5 3-154 4-340 5-375	
To bat: Kapil Dev, Kiran More, Arshad Ayub, Maninder Singh.	
Bowling to date: Imran Khan 41-12-108-1, Wasim Akram 24-6-85-1, Shahid Mahboob 47-11-121-2, Akram Raza 18-3-56-0, Abdul Qadir 28-5-86-0, Salim Malik 1-0-2-0, Aamer Malik 1-0-3-0.	



PBAK president Rico Pino (left) confers with Julie Dent of Holiday Inn.

Salwa hold Salmiya

By Sony Mariano

AFTER two weeks of domination by the favoured teams, the underdogs started to show their heads in the PBAK Winter League '89 with Salwa, Al Rashid Freight leading the assault after they held the highly touted Salmiya-NTC 2-2.

The main man of the Freight Movers was Wally Flores who scored a 3 game series of 577. Helping him carry the load were Beda Boja, Saad, Bilel, Joe Bilog, Angie Boja, Rene Cobarr, Milo Coronado and Arce Ruiz.

The Traders on the other hand depended on their most reliable bowler Anukul who top-scored for his team with his 576 assisted by Baby Pansol with 437. The other team members are Rody Zablan, Mar Evangelista, Jun Chong, Elsa Varghese, Joe Chao and Ernie Landino.

In the other encounter on Thursday between Kuwait City-Arاليا Rest and Yarmouk Teetron, Kuwait City finally came out victorious after their drawn games during the last two weeks. Leading scorers for Arاليا were Wally Saaby (549), Flor Tongson (530) and Eric Saaby with 474.

Teetron's losing stand was gallantly led by Vic Chong (533), Oman (476) and Koma with 472.

The first game on Friday also was an upset of some sort as Al Soor-Najd Cargo stunned the Salwa-NTC leaders who went down to their second defeat in as many days. Nasser with 547, Saleh (525) and Arlean Bonicillo with 521 led the Cargo Forwarders to their best showing so far. The bewildered Traders have to rely on Anukul, Ernie and Joe to salvage one point. The final tally was 3-1 for Al Soor.

Meanwhile, Kuwait City continued their hot streak as they rolled to their second win in two days after defeating the Mahboob-Jokers 3 games to 1. Saleh (530) Willy (528) and Jimmy Tadens (517) were the main ingredients in Kuwait City-Arاليا Rest's good showing while the Best Jokers came from Bob Peak (529), Skip Stomberg hit 433 and Benny Mitchell with 465.

The games played in the afternoon saw defending champs Shuwaik-Chiquita upending Surra-Magnolia/Far East 3 games to 1. The Banash Magatons are now way on top of the standings have Nafiz (615) and Lando Maradona (563) as their best Banash growers. Magnolia/Far East mean consists of Mars Belfi (544), Kamal Alia (532) and Elie Gueyuan with 519.

Going to the bowling action at the other lanes, Falah-NTC B finally scored their first victory 3-1 at the expense of Kaifan-BMW. The junior traders got their first taste of victory through the efforts of Chelo Estrada (560) and Manny Regalario who scored 503. The BMW Speedsters have Nashed (540), Waleed (498) and Corn Perra with (447).

In the last set of games scheduled on Friday, Jahriya-Shakey's Pizza slaked off the challenge coming from Yarmouk Teetron to tie out a 3-1 win. The best toppings for the Pizza Makers were Ed Delon (542), Khaled (528) and Caloy Abensano who scored 499. Teetron relied on Vic Chong with 511 with help coming from Koma (495) and Boja (441). And finally in the last match of the day, Salwa-Al Rashid headed Murgab-City Intl/Far East Bank and Trust Company a 3-1 beating to move up in the standings. Arce Ruiz (527) and Milo Coronado carried the scoring brunt for the Freight Movers while the Money Dealers was led by Rolly Galicia (511), Jun (452) and Lee (452).

The Philippine Bowling Association in Kuwait (PBAK), its officers and members would like to request each and every member of the Filipino community in Kuwait to say a little prayer for our beloved country and families in the hope that the present crisis will soon be over so that peace and order will prevail in the days to come.

Standings

GP	TPP	W	L	Av.
12	10165	14	2	847
9	7545	8	4	838
12	9844	10	6	820
9	7667	7.5	4.5	852
12	9914	9	7	826
12	9287	8.5	7.5	774
15	12352	10	10	823
12	9395	8	8	783
9	7211	3.5	8.5	801
9	7003	3.5	8.5	778
9	6817	3	9	735
12	9433	3	13	786

Shuwaik-Chiquita
Al Soor-Najd Cargo
Kuwait City-Arاليا Restaurant
Surra-Magnolia Far East Rest
Jahriya-Shakey's Pizza
Salwa-Al Rashid
Salmiya-NTC
Yarmouk-Teetron
Kaifan-BMW
Mahboob-Jokers II
Falah-NTC B
Murgab-City Intl/Far East Bank

Aga Khan resigns from Jockey Club

LONDON, Dec. 2. (Reuters): The Aga Khan, owner of three English Derby winners in the past eight years, resigned from the British Jockey Club yesterday in protest at their "scientific and administrative methods."

His decision is linked to developments since the positive dope test earlier this year on his classic winning filly Alyssa.

His resignation was announced minutes after another of his horses, Rifada, who failed a dope test after winning the Warwick Oaks, was disqualified by the disciplinary committee of the Jockey Club, horse racing's ruling body in Britain.

However, the Aga Khan's solicitor, Matthew McCloy, stressed that the resignation was caused by the controversy over Alyssa, not the Rifada case.

Alyssa is the subject of a separate inquiry. After her Epsom victory in June the filly was

found to have the prohibited substance camphor in her system.

The Aga Khan, who became an honorary member of the Jockey Club in 1982, handed in his resignation in a private letter to senior steward Lord Hartington.

A statement issued later through the Aga Khan's solicitor said: "Whilst regretting that this decision has become necessary, His Highness (The Aga Khan) considers that his strong opposition to the scientific and administrative methods employed by the Jockey Club and its forensic laboratory in the Vayrann case, followed eight years later by the same approach to the Jockey Club's enquiries into the dope test on Alyssa, leaves him no alternative."

Vayrann was positively dope tested after winning the 1981 Champion Stakes at New-

market.

But at a subsequent Jockey Club enquiry the Aga Khan was allowed to keep the race after it was proved that the horse could have produced his own anabolic steroids.

The Aga Khan, a top owner and breeder on the European scene throughout the 1980s, has major interests in France, Britain and Ireland.

He won the Prix de L'Arc de Triomphe in 1982 with Aktya and other top horses he has owned include English Derby winners Kahyasi, Shahrastani and Shergar and French Derby winners Darshaan, Moukhar and Natroun.

In the Rifada case the Aga Khan accepted the rules of racing had been properly applied after the prohibited substance had been given in error.

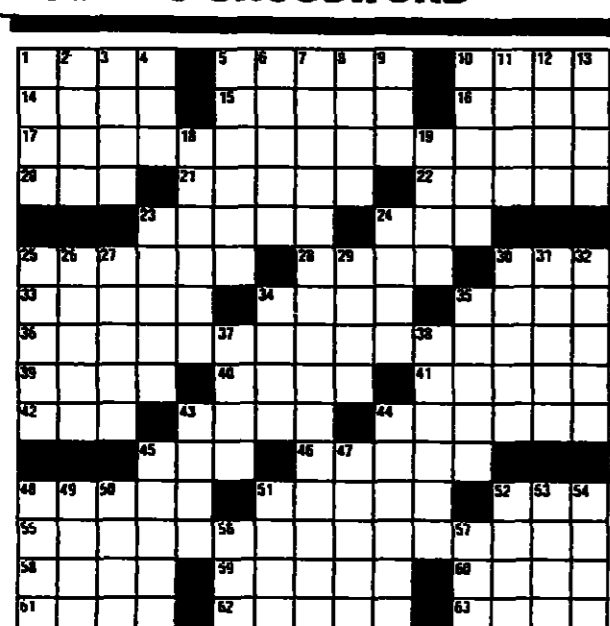
Langston signs \$16m contract

ANAHEIM, Calif., Dec. 2. (Reuters): Free agent Pitcher Mark Langston became the highest paid player in baseball history yesterday when he signed a five-year, guaranteed contract worth \$16 million with the California Angels.

The signing of Langston, 29, capped a week of furious spending by Major teams that saw two other players reach the \$3 million per year mark in salary.

Kirby Puckett was first to reach that level when he signed a three-year deal with the Minnesota Twins. Fellow-outfielder Rickey Henderson wrung a fourth year at the three million rate from the World Series champions Oakland Athletics.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- Paper measure
 - Bombardier and others
 - Green — plum
 - Bruno's univ.
 - Pallid
 - "Damn Yankees" role
 - Paul Robeson role
 - Argyle
 - Michael Came role
 - Anna Neagle role
 - Glenn of acting fame
 - Thickness
 - The way to drive
 - Dye plant
 - "Miniver"
 - Ammonia derivative
 - Cinch
 - Mullins of the comics
 - Anne Baxter role
 - "God's Little"
 - Laurel and Hardy et al.
 - Orphan on Broadway
 - It's the limit
 - Leslie Caron role
 - Tex. Theima or John
 - Actor Camillo
 - Nary a soul
 - Lost
 - Greek letter
 - Paul Newman role
 - Robert Duval movie
 - Money maker
 - Change
 - Similar
- DOWN
- Conductor Akira
 - Itty-bitty
 - A kill, on the Hill
 - Kisco or Vernon
 - 1968 Rosalind Russell movie
 - Villainous expression
 - Comfortable
 - "— Walsh"
 - Lee Marvin movie
 - Peculiar
 - Comb. form
 - South China Sea island
 - Equipment
 - Traffic circle
 - A — stand on
 - Comic Ole
 - "Don't throw bouquets"
 - Svelte
 - Thrill
 - Hollywood's Robertson
 - Backpack
 - Specific quantity
 - Sal Mineo role
 - Lunch
 - Hebrew letter

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

SAND MAMA HADA
ALDOES ELON OMEN
BERLE SINGALONG
ENSTILES ERUDITE
REEVES TYRO
ENTER MANNER
SACRE LAKA TULE
ALOT DEVON ONME
MESH REEK SYNOD
SCHEME ROMEO
GOSH EXUDED
CABOOSE STIRRED
APRONLIKE SHALE
READ EDIE MAKES
DRYS RIND TEDS

GOVERN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ AS ♡ Q10762 ♢ Void ♣ AKQ972
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 1 ♢ 1 ♠ 2 ♢
What do you bid now?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ Q76 ♡ 9 ♢ AQ10962 ♣ AQ5
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♢ Pass 1 ♠ 3 ♢
What do you bid now?

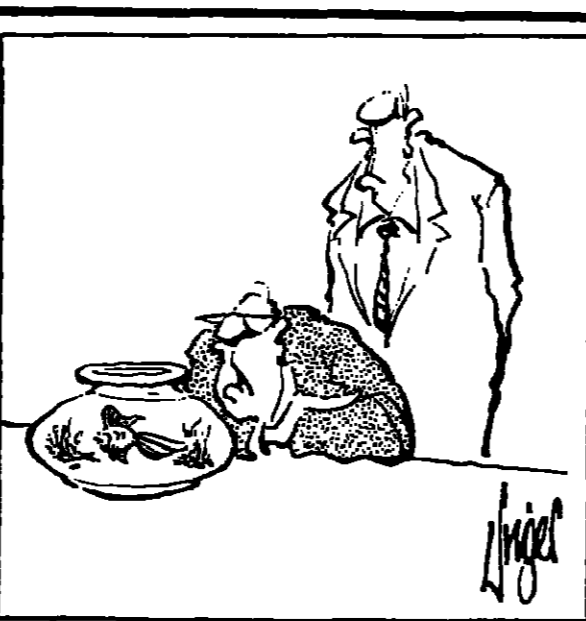
Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ Q9843 ♡ 85 ♢ QJ63 ♣ 73
Partner opens the bidding with a

demand bid of two spades. What do you respond?

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ QJ63 ♡ 875 ♢ J652 ♣ 73
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
2 ♠ 2 ♠ ?
What action do you take?

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South with 60 on score you hold:
♠ KJ6 ♡ Q109 ♢ AJ104 ♣ QJ9
What is your opening bid?

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South with 60 on score you hold:
♠ A1063 ♡ K76 ♢ K85 ♣ K85
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What action do you take?



"Divorce is very hard on the goldfish."



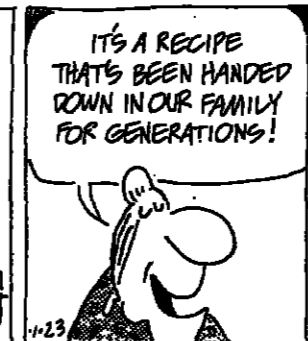
"I accepted the offer for you, seen' as my wife wants some new curtains!"



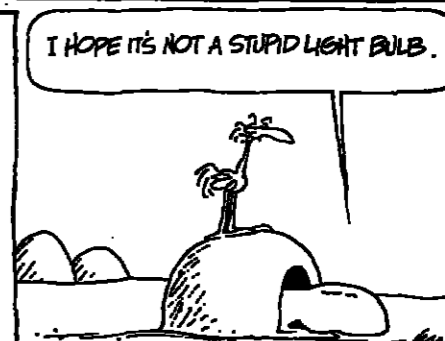
"Have I got time for another quick shave?"

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You will have something to be pleased about, but do not become complacent. Take the opportunity to further your cultural interests. Avoid eating too many sweet things. Be sympathetic.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You are more liable to spill things, so be extra careful. Avoid acting out spite or vengeance. Make sure you do not make things easy for burglars. Be reliable.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You should try to take your mind off work for the day. Concern yourself more with family matters. Do not spend too much time glued to the television set. Be respectful.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

If you leave things to the last minute there is a much bigger chance of being late. You should not exceed limits whether of speed or safety. Do not let others dictate to you, but nor should you dictate to them. Be more patient.



Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)

If you are careless you may not have a chance to remedy matters. You are more liable to be blamed for other people's mistakes. Try to ensure you do not go too far. Be moderate.



Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)

Avoid becoming involved in an argument between a friend and his partner. Instead do your best to make peace between them. Do not expect your children to be carbon copies of you. Be amenable.



Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)

You are liable to act on impulse and should take steps to restrain yourself. Make sure you do not spend more than you can readily afford. And do not spend in the expectation that you will have some good luck.



Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

Something you have been expecting would happen will not, and that will both please and disappoint you. You should not do things merely because others are doing them. You are liable to miss a good opportunity. Be considerate.



Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

Eat plenty of fruit and vegetables and try to eat only as much as you need to maintain a reasonable weight. Do not seek to gain at someone else's expense. Ensure you get all the rest you need. Be active.



Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19

You should try to take your mind off work. Your lucky numbers are 15 and 37. If you expect too much you are bound to be disappointed. Do help your family even if it means going without certain things yourself. Be observant.



Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

A tendency to 'nibble' should be resisted if you want to maintain your weight. You will be reluctant to do what has to be done but you must make the effort. The more you help others the more in turn they will help you. Be amenable.



Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)

You will tend to be rather forgetful so do your best to jog your memory. Something you thought you had got the better of will reser itself. You will be disappointed just now if you expect something for nothing. Be generous.

SPORTS

TENNIS

Lendl lone backer of ITF's \$6m tournament

NEW YORK, Dec 2, (Reuters): World number one Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia has lined up against the other stars at the Masters tennis tournament by announcing his support for next year's Grand Slam Cup.

The International Tennis Federation (ITF), whose influence on the men's circuit has been usurped by the player's ATP Tour starting in January, plans to stage the \$6 million event December 10-16 in West Germany.

Most of the other world's top players have criticised the Cup as trying to undermine the new tour, whose season-ending championship is scheduled for Frankfurt, West Germany, in November. But Lendl says he welcomes it with open arms.

"I believe it's (the Grand Slam Cup) an attempt by the ITF to start another tour and I think it would be great for tennis to have two tours competing against each other," Lendl said.

Participants for the eight-man field are determined by the results in the four Grand Slam championships and Davis Cup matches.

"I'm hoping that one tour will be pushing the other to produce a better tour and that would be great for the public and the players," Lendl said.

Other top players, including world number two and Wimbledon champion Boris Becker, disagree.

"They said the ITF are organising the event as a political exercise to divert attention away from the new player-run ATP tour which starts in the new year."

Other top players like Stefan Edberg, John McEnroe, Andre Agassi, Michael Chang, Brad Gilbert, and Aaron Krickstein also view the event as a potential albatross.

Their biggest concern is that the event will erode the importance of their own \$2 million ATP world championship.

"It is too much prize money in comparison to the other Grand Slam events as well as the other normal tennis tournaments," says Becker. "It's in our off season and three weeks after we have the final Masters tournament in Germany... it's too much tennis in Germany."

Becker continued: "I know why it's going to be held... to show who has power in the game. I think people should put their own ego aside and look more at the future of tennis."

The West German issued a veiled threat to Cup organisers: "I don't play in my home country. I don't think the hall is going to be full."

Nevertheless, none of the players has said categorically they would boycott the event if they qualified.

McEnroe against electronic line judge

Lendl, Becker win

NEW YORK, Dec 2, (Reuters): With deadly accuracy from the service line, both Ivan Lendl and Boris Becker completed perfect records in the round-robin portion of the Masters tennis tournament yesterday to stay on course for a rematch in tomorrow's final.

Defending champion Becker overpowered third-ranked Stefan Edberg of Sweden 6-1 6-4 to win the Lieke Nastase group and Lendl outplayed John McEnroe 6-3 6-3 to take the Rod Laver group title.

Berths in this evening's semifinals were decided on Thursday but yesterday's match determined the pairings.

Five-time champion Lendl takes on Edberg in a rematch of last year's semifinal, which the Czechoslovak won in straight sets. Becker was to play McEnroe, a three-time Masters champion, in the other semifinal of this \$3.1 million tournament.

three-time Wimbledon champion, who ended his 1989 match record to 61-7.

Lendl, who has won 37 of his last 38 sets, and 79 of 85 matches this year, expressed similar sentiments.

"It's always easy to win when you don't lose your serve," the world number one said.

As he has in his two previous matches, McEnroe struggled to hold serve. The left-hander faced

eight break points in the first set dropping his serve in the third and ninth games.

By contrast, Lendl continued his remarkable consistency from the service line, giving up just two points on his serve in the first set and six in the second.

McEnroe, for his part, kept up his longtime opposition to the cyclops electronic service line judge, shouting: "when is one umpire going to stand up and say

that that machine does not work," when it failed to sound after a Lendl serve that he thought was long.

Lendl carried on in the second set holding three of his five service games at love and breaking McEnroe in the fourth game. He committed just 11 unforced errors in the match and his passing shots often left McEnroe looking as if his feet would leave his sneakers as he lunged helplessly at shots.

"He's probably playing as well as he's ever played. I was diving just to get balls back," said McEnroe, who has lost six of his last seven matches with Lendl.

Edberg was equally impressed with his opponent.

"I believe he's the best player in the world this year," said Edberg, who lost the Wimbledon final to world number two Becker. "He's playing with a lot of confidence and he's playing better than ever from the back-court."



Lendl enjoys a light moment in his match against McEnroe. (Reuters wirephoto)



Leonard (right) lets loose a shout during a sparring bout. (Reuters wirephoto)

Leonard, Duran fight nears

NEW YORK, Dec 2, (UPI): Before he tries to erase the shame of 'no mas', Roberto Duran must survive.

No sooner did Duran sign to fight Sugar Ray Leonard for a third time, Thursday night at Las Vegas, Nevada, than the questions began about that strange New Orleans Night Nov 25, 1980 when Duran walked away from a good fight for the only time in his life.

Duran has made it clear he will talk 'no mas' about that fight.

"Hey, come on, I've done enough in boxing," he says when the subject is brought up. "After the fight, we'll forget about 'no mas'."

That is doubtful, since the 'no mas' fight has become part of sports lore. A Duran victory over Leonard in their rubber match would only be a great achievement because of how low he fell when he quit the last time.

There are reminders of that fight everywhere. Promoter Bob Arum named Duran-Leonard III 'Uno mas', a title that irks Duran. And if Duran won't talk about 'no mas', others will.

Nobody can explain it, however. Duran dropped his claim of stomach cramps long ago. Leonard, who teased and taunted Duran into surrender in the rematch of his bitter defeat five months earlier in Montreal, has his theory.

"I always said it was frustration, without his realizing the ramifications it would have on the world," Leonard said. "But only Duran can answer that."

Duran refuses, leaving it to guesswork.

This much is clear: Roberto Duran was the last boxer anyone would expect to quit in the mid-

dle of a fight. Entering the fight, he was 72-1 and had taken the World Boxing Council welterweight title from Leonard in his previous bout. Duran was a legend in his native Panama, he was considered among the great lightweights and the word 'macho' seemed made for him.

Leonard, who tried and failed to outslug Duran in Montreal, followed a new plan in New Orleans. He circled Duran, jabbed him, stuck out his chin in derision, wound up with his right hand and punched with his left. Duran was at first puzzled, then frustrated, finally angry.

He was never hurt but he turned to referee Octavio Meyran in the middle of the eighth round and said 'no mas'. The referee ordered them to continue, and Leonard landed a punch. Duran waved his right hand and repeated 'no mas'. The fight was over.

"What he did and why he did it was one of the great mysteries of my life," says 90-year-old Ray Arce, who was Duran's chief second that night. "He didn't have to do it."

"Leonard taunted him too much and he must've thought, 'the heck with you, go fight by yourself.' That's Leonard's game: to frustrate you and counter."

Angelo Dundee, who trained Leonard for that fight, said Duran merely accepted the inevitable.

"I didn't think he quit, that's a dirty word," Dundee said. "He took the noble way out. I think Ray would've knocked him out. He was primed."

Although he announced his retirement after the 'no mas' fight, Duran would have jumped

at an offer for an immediate rematch. He returned to Panama a disgraced man. He achieved a measure of redemption by knocking out Davey Moore for the World Boxing Association 154-pound (70 kg) title in 1983 and finally gained a rematch with Leonard by taking the WBC middleweight crown from Iran Barkley last February.

But a third shot at Leonard is all Duran has really wanted for nine years.

"I never lost hope that I would get Leonard again," he said.

Leonard's career soared after 'no mas'. His record ring earnings will reach at least \$95 million with 'Uno mas' and his 35-1-1 record includes triumphs over Thomas Hearns and Marvin Hagler this decade.

Leonard's WBC super middleweight title will be on the line, but that is not what Thursday's fight is about.

"This is indeed a rubber match because Duran is the only man to defeat me," Leonard said. "He owes me one and I owe him one. It's just a fight to settle the score. It's a matter of pride."

Duran is responsible for entering two Spanish phrases into the American sports dictionary. The first, 'Manos de piedra', symbolizes Duran's glory days. 'No mas', connotes his fall. Even if things go right for him Thursday night and Duran again comes to be known as 'Hands of stone', the phrase 'no mas' will live.

And Duran is not the only man haunted by those two words.

"It's become a joke, part of a monologue," Leonard said. "There will always be certain innuendos about the fight. Kids on the street say 'no mas', it becomes a joke. And my career's no joke."

Celtics blast Cavaliers

BOSTON, Dec 2, (AP): Larry Bird overcame a cold-shooting start and scored 20 of his 29 points in the second half as the Boston Celtics rolled to a 102-89 victory over the injury-plagued Cleveland Cavaliers last night.

Bird made just three of 12 shots in the first half, which ended with Boston leading 51-45. But he scored 12 in the third quarter, hitting four of seven field-goal attempts, helping Boston to a 76-67 lead entering the fourth quarter.

The lead ranged from four to a game high of 15 points the rest of the way as Cleveland played again without Brad Daugherty, Larry Nance, Mark Price and Tree Rollins.

The Cavaliers, who lost for the fourth time in five games, were led by Randolph Keys with 22 points. Boston got 18 points from Kevin McHale. Striking distance most of the game.

Pacers 125, Magic 110

Chuck Person had 28 points and a season-high 17 rebounds, while Rick Smith had a career-high seven blocked shots to go with 20 points and 12 rebounds as Indiana beat Orlando.

Charles Shackleford scored 19 points and Dennis Hopson added 18 as New Jersey snapped a nine-game losing streak and handed Miami its sixth straight setback.

Bullets 107, 76ers 90

Jeff Malone scored 25 points as the Washington Bullets broke away from a halfhearted tie with a hot-shooting third quarter to beat Philadelphia, snapping the 76ers' four-game winning streak.

Akeem Olajuwon knows the NBA is cracking down on fighting, but that didn't keep him from swinging at J.R. Reid.

Both players were ejected in the third quarter of Thursday night's game between Houston and Charlotte after a fight that Olajuwon said was started by Reid's flying elbows.

Olajuwon, the Rockets centre, said although he was aware of the stricter enforcement of fighting rules, "when somebody does something like that, you can get into it."

Reid claimed he was just trying to work his way through Olajuwon's pick. Olajuwon said he did so with his elbow.

"I was setting a pick and he came out of it with an elbow," Olajuwon said. "Maybe he thought I wouldn't complain."

"There are some players who will take that, but not me. I told him to cut it out and play clean. When somebody is playing cheap, I'm not going to take it."

Reid was fined this week for an incident on Nov 21 when a flying elbow knocked out five of Billy Thompson's teeth in a game against Miami.

Results		
Detroit	108	L.A. Lakers 97
Boston	102	Cleveland 89
Indiana	125	Orlando 110
New Jersey	101	Miami 77
Atlanta	114	Utah 103
Washington	107	Philadelphia 90
Phoenix	111	L.A. Clippers 90
Portland	123	Golden State 110

NBA awash with money

NEW YORK, Dec 2, (AP): First, NBC decided to give \$600 million. Now, broadcaster Ted Turner is kicking in \$275 million. The NBA is awash with money.

"If you ask me whether players salaries are going to go up a lot, I would say I hope so," Commissioner David Stern said, "because that means the NBA is successful."

The escalation in television rights fees continued on Thursday when Turner Broadcasting Systems agreed to renew its contract for \$275 million over four years. The NBA will be getting almost three times more per season than it gets under the \$30 million, two-year deal with Turner that expires next summer.

Just three weeks ago, NBC took the NBA's network rights away from CBS with a \$650 million, four-year contract.

Bears to face Vikings

NEW YORK, Dec 2, (AP): To the Chicago Bears, the task is simple. "We started 4-0 and our goal is to finish 4-0," quarterback Mike Tomczak explained.

If the Bears can accomplish that, the 2-6 stretch they've been stuck in over the last eight weeks won't hurt nearly as much as it does right now.

At the moment, Chicago is in third place in the NFC Central, a game back of co-leaders Minnesota and Green Bay. The Bears start the final month of the season against the Vikings in the Metrodome tomorrow evening while the Packers play at Tampa Bay.

In the NFC East, Philadelphia travels up the New Jersey turnpike to challenge the New York Giants for the division lead. The Eagles go in one game behind but would have the tiebreaker edge if they win because they defeated New York in their first meeting.

Elsewhere, the four AFC Central teams have intra-division showdowns with Cincinnati at Cleveland and Houston at Pittsburgh. In other games, Indianapolis plays at New England, the Los Angeles Rams are at Dallas, Miami visits Kansas City, New Orleans travels to Detroit, San Francisco is at Atlanta, Washington goes to Phoenix, the New York Jets play at San Diego and Denver plays the Raiders at Los Angeles.

Blown

Buffalo plays the Seahawks at Seattle on Monday night to complete the season's 13th week.

Chicago coach Mike Ditka had written his team off saying, "it's over," after the Bears were blown out by Washington last week. Ditka later backed off that.

The Packers, who have beaten Chicago, San Francisco and Minnesota in the last month to climb into contention, will occupy themselves with Tampa Bay while letting Chicago and Minnesota battle it out. The Bucs, who have won two straight, could move within a game of first place if they win and the Bears knock off the Vikings.

Eagle coach Buddy Ryan has the formula for the New York-Philadelphia game. "If you want to beat the Giants you have to block Lawrence Taylor," he said. "If you want to beat the Eagles, you have to block Reggie White. Those are two constants."

The difference, though, is the Eagles, equipped as usual with White, won't have to worry tomorrow about Taylor, who suffered a sprained ankle in last Monday night's loss at San Francisco.

Wilkinson blows chance

PRESTON, England, Dec 2, (Reuters): New snooker sensation Gary Wilkinson blew his chance of beating world champion Steve Davis in a dramatic semifinal last night.

By his own admission, Davis seemed a beaten man. He had fought back from 6-3 to 8-7 down but, trailing 56-35 in the 16th frame, he required two snookers on the pink.

He got one but was still striving for the second when fellow Englishman Wilkinson unbelievably missed the pink as it rested tight against the bottom cushion.

Davis could hardly believe his luck. He went on to pull off one of snooker's great escape acts, taking the deciding frame 88-6 to complete an amazing 9-8 victory.

Worse still for Wilkinson, who on Thursday beat world number four Jimmy White of England 9-0, came later when it was pointed out to him that Davis still needed a second snooker on the pink.

"It never entered my head. I was that scrambled up inside thinking about what shot I should play," he said.

Davis, in the UK final for the eighth time in 10 years, said: "I have had a lot of things happen to me during my career but I don't think there will be many more turn-ups like this."

In the two-day, best-of-31-frame final, Davis meets Scot Stephen Hendry, 9-7 semifinal winner against former world champion Terry Griffiths of Wales.

Government Warning: Smoking is a major cause of cancer and diseases of the lungs, heart and arteries.

SPORTS

Villa keep pace with League leaders

Liverpool brush aside City

LONDON, Dec 2, (Reuters): Liverpool and Aston Villa eased two points clear at the top of the English First Division today as Chelsea's impressive unbeaten home run came to a spectacular end.

Two goals from Welsh striker Ian Rush swept League leaders Liverpool to a 4-1 win at managerless bottom club Manchester City.

Villa kept pace with a 2-1 home win over Nottingham Forest, new England striker David Platt clinching the victory with his 13th goal of the season 14 minutes from time as the Birmingham side, moved into second place in the table level with Liverpool on 30 points.

But Chelsea, one of four sides on 27 points at the start of the day, lost ground as they surrendered their 28-match unbeaten run at Stamford Bridge by crashing 5-2 to London neighbours Wimbledon.

Chelsea's former Wimbledon goalkeeper Dave Beasant had a miserable afternoon. He had not lost in 19 home appearances as a Chelsea player and must have expected to extend that run when Kerry Dixon put the hosts 1-0 up after 70 seconds.

But two goals apiece from Terry Gibson and Dennis Wise plus another from Alan Cork, a fourth-placed Chelsea's proud record in tatters.

Third-placed Arsenal, the League champions, tackle Manchester United tomorrow.



Rush: scored two for Liverpool

Liverpool, fifth in the table six points off the lead just two weeks ago, were always in command against City, yet to find a replacement for manager Mel Machin who was sacked last month.

Rush shot Liverpool ahead in the eighth minute after City

goalkeeper Andy Dibble had blocked Dane J. Molby's effort.

The Manchester side, who have won just one of the last eight matches, held their own for the remainder of the half but then went 2-0 down to a superb solo goal by England striker Peter

Beardsley three minutes after half-time.

Steve McMahon hit the third 10 minutes later before Clive Allen pulled one back for City from the penalty spot. Rush completed the scoring three minutes from time with his ninth goal of the season.

Villa, seeking to go clear at the top for the first time since they won the championship in 1981, went ahead through Ian Olney in the second minute against Forest.

Striker Lee Chapman equalised midway through the first half when he turned in Steve Chettle's low cross and the visitors threatened to take charge when midfielder Steve Hodge rattled a post with a 25-metre drive after the interval.

But Platt clinched the points with a winner which extended Villa's impressive record to eight wins from their last nine games.

Results

English Division One	English Division Two
Aston Villa 4	0 Ipswich
Chelsea 5	0 Bournemouth
Crystal Palace 0	0 QPR
Derby 2	0 Charlton
Everton 0	0 Coventry
Leeds 2	0 Tottenham
Man City 1	0 Liverpool
Millwall 2	0 Southampton
Norwich 2	0 Sheffield Wed
Portsmouth 1	0 Wexford
Sheff Wed 3	0 Bradford
Sheff U 2	0 Notts Forest
Sunderland 2	0 Wimbledon
West Ham 0	0 Stoke
Wolves 2	0 Middlesbrough

English Division Three	English Division Four
Bolton 0	0 Northampton
Bristol City 0	0 Rotherham
Cambridge 0	0 Rochdale
Cardiff 1	0 Carlisle
Cardiff 1	0 Lincoln
Cardiff 1	0 Huddersfield
Cardiff 1	0 Notts County
Cardiff 1	0 Reading
Cardiff 1	0 Shrewsbury
Cardiff 1	0 Swansea
Cardiff 1	0 Blackpool
Cardiff 1	0 Bury
Cardiff 1	0 Bristol R

English Division Five	English Division Six
Albion 0	0 Aldershot
Albion 0	0 Burnley
Albion 0	0 Cambridge
Albion 0	0 Carlisle
Albion 0	0 Colchester
Albion 0	0 Doncaster
Albion 0	0 Hartlepool
Albion 0	0 Maidstone
Albion 0	0 Scunthorpe
Albion 0	0 Southend
Albion 0	0 Torquay
Albion 0	0 Walsley
Albion 0	0 York

English Division Seven	English Division Eight
Albion 0	0 Aldershot
Albion 0	0 Burnley
Albion 0	0 Cambridge
Albion 0	0 Carlisle
Albion 0	0 Colchester
Albion 0	0 Doncaster
Albion 0	0 Hartlepool
Albion 0	0 Maidstone
Albion 0	0 Scunthorpe
Albion 0	0 Southend
Albion 0	0 Torquay
Albion 0	0 Walsley
Albion 0	0 York

English Division Nine	English Division Ten
Albion 0	0 Aldershot
Albion 0	0 Burnley
Albion 0	0 Cambridge
Albion 0	0 Carlisle
Albion 0	0 Colchester
Albion 0	0 Doncaster
Albion 0	0 Hartlepool
Albion 0	0 Maidstone
Albion 0	0 Scunthorpe
Albion 0	0 Southend
Albion 0	0 Torquay
Albion 0	0 Walsley
Albion 0	0 York

English Division Eleven	English Division Twelve
Albion 0	0 Aldershot
Albion 0	0 Burnley
Albion 0	0 Cambridge
Albion 0	0 Carlisle
Albion 0	0 Colchester
Albion 0	0 Doncaster
Albion 0	0 Hartlepool
Albion 0	0 Maidstone
Albion 0	0 Scunthorpe
Albion 0	0 Southend
Albion 0	0 Torquay
Albion 0	0 Walsley
Albion 0	0 York

English Division Thirteen	English Division Fourteen
Albion 0	0 Aldershot
Albion 0	0 Burnley
Albion 0	0 Cambridge
Albion 0	0 Carlisle
Albion 0	0 Colchester
Albion 0	0 Doncaster
Albion 0	0 Hartlepool
Albion 0	0 Maidstone
Albion 0	0 Scunthorpe
Albion 0	0 Southend
Albion 0	0 Torquay
Albion 0	0 Walsley
Albion 0	0 York

English Division Fifteen	English Division Sixteen
Albion 0	0 Aldershot
Albion 0	0 Burnley
Albion 0	0 Cambridge
Albion 0	0 Carlisle
Albion 0	0 Colchester
Albion 0	0 Doncaster
Albion 0	0 Hartlepool
Albion 0	0 Maidstone
Albion 0	0 Scunthorpe
Albion 0	0 Southend
Albion 0	0 Torquay
Albion 0	0 Walsley
Albion 0	0 York

English Division Seventeen	English Division Eighteen
Albion 0	0 Aldershot
Albion 0	0 Burnley
Albion 0	0 Cambridge
Albion 0	0 Carlisle
Albion 0	0 Colchester
Albion 0	0 Doncaster
Albion 0	0 Hartlepool
Albion 0	0 Maidstone
Albion 0	0 Scunthorpe
Albion 0	0 Southend
Albion 0	0 Torquay
Albion 0	0 Walsley
Albion 0	0 York

English Division Nineteen	English Division Twenty
Albion 0	0 Aldershot
Albion 0	0 Burnley
Albion 0	0 Cambridge
Albion 0	0 Carlisle
Albion 0	0 Colchester
Albion 0	0 Doncaster
Albion 0	0 Hartlepool
Albion 0	0 Maidstone
Albion 0	0 Scunthorpe
Albion 0	0 Southend
Albion 0	0 Torquay
Albion 0	0 Walsley
Albion 0	0 York

English Division Twenty-One	English Division Twenty-Two
Albion 0	0 Aldershot
Albion 0	0 Burnley
Albion 0	0 Cambridge
Albion 0	0 Carlisle
Albion 0	0 Colchester
Albion 0	0 Doncaster
Albion 0	0 Hartlepool
Albion 0	0 Maidstone
Albion 0	0 Scunthorpe
Albion 0	0 Southend
Albion 0	0 Torquay
Albion 0	0 Walsley
Albion 0	0 York

English Division Twenty-Three	English Division Twenty-Four
Albion 0	0 Aldershot
Albion 0	0 Burnley
Albion 0	0 Cambridge
Albion 0	0 Carlisle
Albion 0	0 Colchester
Albion 0	0 Doncaster
Albion 0	0 Hartlepool
Albion 0	0 Maidstone
Albion 0	0 Scunthorpe
Albion 0	0 Southend
Albion 0	0 Torquay
Albion 0	0 Walsley
Albion 0	0 York

English Division Twenty-Five	English Division Twenty-Six
Albion 0	0 Aldershot
Albion 0	0 Burnley
Albion 0	0 Cambridge
Albion 0	0 Carlisle
Albion 0	0 Colchester
Albion 0	0 Doncaster
Albion 0	0 Hartlepool
Albion 0	0 Maidstone
Albion 0	0 Scunthorpe
Albion 0	0 Southend
Albion 0	0 Torquay
Albion 0	0 Walsley
Albion 0	0 York

English Division Twenty-Seven	English Division Twenty-Eight
Albion 0	0 Aldershot
Albion 0	0 Burnley
Albion 0	0 Cambridge
Albion 0	0 Carlisle
Albion 0	0 Colchester
Albion 0	0 Doncaster
Albion 0	0 Hartlepool
Albion 0	0 Maidstone
Albion 0	0 Scunthorpe
Albion 0	0 Southend
Albion 0	0 Torquay
Albion 0	0 Walsley
Albion 0	0 York

English Division Twenty-Nine	English Division Thirty
Albion 0	0 Aldershot
Albion 0	0 Burnley
Albion 0	0 Cambridge
Albion 0	0 Carlisle
Albion 0	0 Colchester
Albion 0	0 Doncaster
Albion 0	0 Hartlepool
Albion 0	0 Maidstone
Albion 0	0 Scunthorpe
Albion 0	0 Southend
Albion 0	0 Torquay
Albion 0	0 Walsley
Albion 0	0 York

English Division Thirty-One	English Division Thirty-Two
Albion 0	0 Aldershot
Albion 0	0 Burnley
Albion 0	0 Cambridge
Albion 0	0 Carlisle
Albion 0	0 Colchester
Albion 0	0 Doncaster
Albion 0	0 Hartlepool
Albion 0	0 Maidstone
Albion 0	0 Scunthorpe
Albion 0	0 Southend
Albion 0	0 Torquay
Albion 0	0 Walsley
Albion 0	0 York

English Division Thirty-Three	English Division Thirty-Four
Albion 0	0 Aldershot
Albion 0	0 Burnley
Albion 0	0 Cambridge
Albion 0	0 Carlisle
Albion 0	0 Colchester
Albion 0	0 Doncaster
Albion 0	0 Hartlepool
Albion 0	0 Maidstone
Albion 0	0 Scunthorpe
Albion 0	0 Southend
Albion 0	0 Torquay
Albion 0	0 Walsley
Albion 0	0 York

English Division Thirty-Five	English Division Thirty-Six
Albion 0	0 Aldershot
Albion 0	0 Burnley
Albion 0	0 Cambridge
Albion 0	0 Carlisle
Albion 0	0 Colchester
Albion 0	0 Doncaster
Albion 0	0 Hartlepool
Albion 0	0 Maidstone
Albion 0	0 Scunthorpe
Albion 0	0 Southend
Albion 0	0 Torquay
Albion 0	0 Walsley
Albion 0	0 York

English Division Thirty-Seven	English Division Thirty-Eight
Albion 0	0 Aldershot
Albion 0	0 Burnley
Albion 0	0 Cambridge
Albion 0	0 Carlisle
Albion 0	0 Colchester
Albion 0	0 Doncaster
Albion 0	0 Hartlepool
Albion 0	0 Maidstone
Albion 0	0 Scunthorpe
Albion 0	0 Southend
Albion 0	0 Torquay
Albion 0	0 Walsley
Albion 0	0 York

English Division Thirty-Nine	English Division Forty
Albion 0	0 Aldershot
Albion 0	0 Burnley
Albion 0	0 Cambridge
Albion 0	0 Carlisle
Albion 0	0 Colchester
Albion 0	0 Doncaster
Albion 0	0 Hartlepool
Albion 0	0 Maidstone
Albion 0	0 Scunthorpe
Albion 0	0 Southend
Albion 0	0 Torquay
Albion 0	0 Walsley
Albion 0	0 York

English Division Forty-One	English Division Forty-Two
Albion 0	0 Aldershot
Albion 0	0 Burnley
Albion 0	0 Cambridge
Albion 0	0 Carlisle
Albion 0	0 Colchester
Albion 0	0 Doncaster
Albion 0	0 Hartlepool
Albion 0	0 Maidstone
Albion 0	0 Scunthorpe
Albion 0	0 Southend
Albion 0	0 Torquay
Albion 0	0 Walsley
Albion 0	0 York

English Division Forty-Three	English Division Forty-Four
Albion 0	0 Aldershot
Albion 0	0 Burnley
Albion 0	0 Cambridge
Albion 0	0 Carlisle
Albion 0	0 Colchester
Albion 0	0 Doncaster
Albion 0	0 Hartlepool
Albion 0	0 Maidstone
Albion 0	0 Scunthorpe
Albion 0	0 Southend
Albion 0	0 Torquay
Albion 0	0 Walsley
Albion 0	0 York

English Division Forty-Five	English Division Forty-Six
Albion 0	0 Aldershot
Albion 0	0 Burnley
Albion 0	0 Cambridge
Albion 0	0 Carlisle
Albion 0	0 Colchester
Albion 0	0 Doncaster
Albion 0	0 Hartlepool
Albion 0	0 Maidstone
Albion 0	0 Scunthorpe
Albion 0	0 Southend
Albion 0	0 Torquay
Albion 0	0 Walsley
Albion 0	0 York

English Division Forty-Seven	English Division Forty-Eight
Albion 0	0 Aldershot
Albion 0	0 Burnley
Albion 0	0 Cambridge
Albion 0	0 Carlisle
Albion 0	0 Colchester
Albion 0	0 Doncaster
Albion 0	0 Hartlepool
Albion 0	0 Maidstone
Albion 0	0 Scunthorpe
Albion 0	0 Southend
Albion 0	0 Torquay
Albion 0	0 Walsley
Albion 0	0 York

English Division Forty-Nine	English Division Fifty
Albion 0	0 Aldershot
Albion 0	0 Burnley
Albion 0	0 Cambridge
Albion 0	0 Carlisle
Albion 0	0 Colchester
Albion 0	0 Doncaster
Albion 0	0 Hartlepool
Albion 0	0 Maidstone
Albion 0	0 Scunthorpe
Albion 0	0 Southend
Albion 0	0 Torquay
Albion 0	0 Walsley
Albion 0	0 York

English Division Fifty-One	English Division Fifty-Two
Albion 0	0 Aldershot
Albion 0	0 Burnley
Albion 0	0 Cambridge
Albion 0	0 Carlisle
Albion 0	0 Colchester
Albion 0	0 Doncaster
Albion 0	0 Hartlepool
Albion 0	0 Maidstone
Albion 0	0 Scunthorpe
Albion 0	0 Southend
Albion 0	0 Torquay
Albion 0	0 Walsley
Albion 0	0 York

English Division Fifty-Three	English Division Fifty-Four
Albion 0	0 Aldershot
Albion 0	0 Burnley
Albion 0	0 Cambridge
Albion 0	0 Carlisle
Albion 0	0 Colchester
Albion 0	0 Doncaster
Albion 0	0 Hartlepool
Albion 0	0 Maidstone
Albion 0	0 Scunthorpe
Albion 0	0 Southend
Albion 0	0 Torquay
Albion 0	0 Walsley
Albion 0	0 York

English Division Fifty-Five	English Division Fifty-Six
Albion 0	0 Aldershot
Albion 0	0 Burnley
Albion 0	0 Cambridge
Albion 0	0 Carlisle
Albion 0	0 Colchester
Albion 0	0 Doncaster
Albion 0	0 Hartlepool
Albion 0	0 Maidstone
Albion 0	0 Scunthorpe
Albion 0	0 Southend
Albion 0	0 Torquay
Albion 0	0 Walsley
Albion 0	0 York

English Division Fifty-Seven	English Division Fifty-Eight
Albion 0	0 Aldershot
Albion 0	0 Burnley
Albion 0	0 Cambridge
Albion 0	0 Carlisle
Albion 0	0 Colchester
Albion 0	0 Doncaster
Albion 0	0 Hartlepool
Albion 0	0 Maidstone
Albion 0	0 Scunthorpe
Albion 0	0 Southend
Albion 0	0